

Steel-Owen alliance moves closer in Commons

The Social Democrats and Liberals in the Commons formed a joint consultative committee yesterday to coordinate parliamentary actions. Dr David Owen signalled the parliamentary birth of the new movement when he challenged the Labour Party, in a debate on defence, to declare their nuclear arms policy.

Joint consultative group formed

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The 12 Social Democrats and 11 Liberals in the Commons formed a "joint consultative committee" yesterday to co-ordinate their parliamentary actions. It was the first combined action of what is intended to produce an electoral alliance.

The committee comprises Mr David Steel, Liberal leader, Dr David Owen, chairman of the parliamentary committee of the Council for Social Democracy, and the two whips, Mr Alan Beith (Liberal) and Mr John Roper (Social Democrat). They met yesterday and will begin weekly meetings tomorrow, alternating between the two parties.

Mr Steel said yesterday: "I think it is very important that we be seen to be working together in the House of Commons before we attempt to go outside to the rest of the country." He said the committee would be seen to be working together in the House of Commons before we attempt to go outside to the rest of the country.

Although Mr Steel's aim is something close to a merger by the next election—a view not shared by the Social Democrats—in the short term there are parliamentary advantages in having a joint committee. It will be seen to be working together in the House of Commons before we attempt to go outside to the rest of the country.

The failure to agree joint action in last night's defence debate has not discouraged the participants. It was attempted before the new committee existed. And, in the Liberals' view, it failed because Dr Owen presented them with an amendment which, in Mr Beith's words, they could agree 99 per cent, but not on the nub, namely the Social Democrats' support for continuing with Polaris.

Mr Steel intends the Commons committee to be only one

forum for advancing the heads of agreement on policy that he wishes to have clear by July. He would then propose it to the full Liberal Assembly in September as the basis for proceeding to an electoral alliance.

Mr Steel is understood to be a little perplexed by the so-called collective leadership of the Social Democrats. Although they have allocated communications to Mrs Shirley Williams, policy coordination to Mr Roy Jenkins, organization to Mr William Rodgers, and parliamentary affairs to Dr David Owen, the line of decision-making is none too clear to the Liberals.

The Liberal leader apparently looked askance at Mrs Williams' sudden withdrawal from a television appearance with him on Monday night, but he is not prepared to be put out. He now looks to a range of Liberal-Social Democrat meetings and dinners.

Mr Steel is understood to be in favour of "organic" growth, of causing as much confusion as possible to their opponents. He does not envisage a neat carve-up of constituencies between the two parties in eventual alliance, but what he sees as "organic" growth at local level. Already it seems one unnamed Liberal local association has approached a social democrat to be their candidate. Although Mr Steel would prefer them to wait until after the general election, he has apparently acquiesced.

As for the local government elections in May, he is understood to be looking to Liberal gains of at least 300 seats, the party's biggest landslide.

But for parliamentary seats the Liberals acknowledge one difficulty, and it is the reason they have been pressing the so-called "gang of four" to hasten their party formation.

The more Liberal candidates selected, the greater the difficulties in arriving at non-aggression pacts locally.

However, Mr Steel believes the electorate wants far more than such non-aggression pacts. In his view they would be effective enough to swing a majority vote, hence his desire for a near-merger that seems to the voter to be one alliance that could form the next government.

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Social Democratic challenge on arms

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Dr David Owen, former Labour Foreign Secretary and one of the leaders of the Council for Social Democracy, yesterday signalled the parliamentary birth of the new political movement when he rose in the Commons to challenge Mr Michael Foot and other leaders of his former party to declare themselves on their nuclear arms policy.

Only a day after formally ceasing, with 11 other MPs, to be a member of the Labour Party, Dr Owen was supported in the Commons yesterday by seven of the new parliamentary committee of the Council for Social Democracy, including Mr William Rodgers, Labour's former defence spokesman.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, came into the Chamber to listen to Dr Owen but Mr Foot absented himself from the

Labour front bench. The House filled rapidly as Dr Owen rose nervously to his feet, his hands shaking and clearly somewhat unnerved by the occasion.

Dr Owen plunged directly into his challenge to the Labour front bench. Speaking shortly after Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr Brynmor John, the Opposition spokesman, opened the debate on the independent strategic deterrent and the choice of the Trident missile system as the successor to Polaris.

Anyone who spoke in the debate for the Labour Party, he said, must be asked if they were endorsing the commitment to membership of Nato, which accepted a nuclear deterrent.

That question had to be

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Tunncliffe's art: This picture of a Green-lantern parrot is typical of the art of Charles Tunncliffe, whose artistic estate is to be sold by Christie's on May 15. The sale runs counter to the artist's wishes. After the 1974 exhibition of some 300 of his works at the

Royal Academy he expressed a wish that his drawings and sketch books should be given to the academy after his death, according to his close friend, Mr Kyffin Williams, R.A. He particularly wished that they should remain together.

St Paul's chosen for July royal wedding

By Robin Young

The Prince of Wales will marry Lady Diana Spencer on Wednesday, July 29, in St Paul's Cathedral. The couple chose St Paul's in preference to Westminster Abbey, the site of many royal weddings this century, because it can seat several hundred more guests.

About 10,000 people crowded into St Paul's for the thanksgiving service at the end of the second World War. Allowing for modern safety requirements and security arrangements it is hoped that up to 3,000 might be able to attend the royal marriage.

The last wedding of a Prince of Wales was in 1863 when the future King Edward VII married Princess Alexandra of Denmark in St George's Chapel, Windsor. The last Prince of Wales to be married at St Paul's was Prince Arthur, Henry VIII's eldest son, who married Catherine of Aragon in 1501 in the old cathedral, which was destroyed in the Great Fire of London.

The Dean of St Paul's, the Very Rev Alan Webster, said yesterday that he had already made the cathedral surveyor and members of the staff to start planning the ceremony. He hoped for "a holy and homely feeling amid the grandeur—a village wedding in the presence of millions of viewers through television."

"It is our intention that St Paul's should be looking at its best with flowers, banners and glorious music," he added.

"We hope too that the procession to St Paul's up Ludgate Hill will be a wonderful sight."

Mr Webster said that 2,500 people attended last year's Christmas services at the cathedral. He hoped to make arrangements for more people to see the ceremony on closed circuit television, perhaps in the crypt.

If I could share my seat with anyone to see the ceremony I would gladly do so," he said, although he did not expect he would be allowed to.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, will officiate at the wedding, and the music will be planned by Mr Christopher Dearnley, the cathedral organist.

No early announcement is expected on whether the day will be declared a public holiday, although talks between government departments will start soon.

The British Tourist Authority

Lord Diplock's report on phone tapping a whitewash, MP says

By Peter Evans
and Frances Gibb

Lord Diplock, chairman of the Security Commission, reported yesterday he was satisfied that there was nothing wrong with the way in which people's letters and telephone calls were intercepted by the police, the Customs and Excise, and the security services.

After monitoring procedures at Mrs Margaret Thatcher's request, he was satisfied that they were working with the minimum of interference with the individual's rights of privacy.

Lord Diplock, who is 73, will continue random checks of applications by the three services for warrants to intercept communications. His future reports will not be published, although Parliament will be told of any general findings.

Conservative and Labour MPs immediately attacked the report as a whitewash, and as a public nuisance. "It has an apparent haste and lack of thorough scrutiny of an enormous number of cases at random," he does not say how many, or their nature. Far from reassuring people, it strengthens support for legislation."

The National Council for Civil Liberties described the report as "sketchy" and "a substitute for legislation. If the Government did not accept the clause in the Bill, it was likely it would be forced to legislate because of a case against Britain pending at the European Commission of Human Rights."

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England are kept waiting for cricket tour decision

By Richard Streeton

A lack of official information from the meeting of West Indian ministers in Barbados about the future of the England cricket tour forced a meeting of the Cricket Council's emergency executive committee at Lord's last night to be postponed until today.

The English officials, waiting in the MCC committee room, were kept informed of the radio and news agency stories from Bridgetown but felt they were unable to discuss the matter until they heard formally from the West Indian authorities.

Mr Peter Lush, the Cricket Council spokesman, said they had been in touch with Mr Alan Smith, the England team manager, by telephone at 7 pm London time and he had been

unable to give them any information. A statement first promised for three hours earlier had not materialized and the committee agreed to adjourn until 9.30 am today.

Mr Lush declined to speculate on the Cricket Council's emerging from Barbados—that the West Indian meeting, attended by government representatives from Barbados, Antigua, Montserrat, and Jamaica, would allow the English cricketers to complete their programme but would seek guarantees about the future composition of visiting English sides. These would not be allowed to include anyone with South African connections.

The Cricket Council's emergency committee will be chaired today by Mr Charles Palmer, the Council chairman.

England in limbo, page 11

Where the Iron Lady takes a hammering

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Indoctrination of children by teachers who are members of the Socialist Workers Party was condemned yesterday by Mr Allan Stewart, Conservative MP for Renfrewshire, East, who is a university lecturer.

In a letter to Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, he drew attention to the issue of *Socialist Worker* of February 21 which contained quotations from essays written by children aged between 12 and 14 who live in the Fossilpark housing estate in north Glasgow.

The subject given was "The virtues and shortcomings of our Prime Minister." Mr Stewart wrote: "No doubt you will be as appalled as I am to learn that this has been going on at a Scottish school."

The extracts from the essays carried in *Socialist Worker* included:

I hate Maggie Thatcher because she is an old ugly (sic) hag and she thinks she is beautiful (sic) but she is not... I would love to spit in her ugly mouth... Maggie Thatcher is a horror. She tries to act snobby and the way she talks bugs the brain...

I hate Maggie Thatcher because she puts up the prices and she wants to start a war and she has caused a lot of unemployment and the poor are poorer. I don't like Maggie Thatcher because she is putting up the prices of milk, bread and cigarettes. She is trying to keep us going to school till we are 18 but don't think I am going to stay on.

I think that Maggie Thatcher is a disgrace to this country. I think Maggie is unfit to be the prime minister. She should be shot or something like that. Or thrown out of the country... I don't like Margaret Thatcher. She is money grabbing. She put food, sweets up. She tried to keep us on school. If I had a gun she would be the furthest (sic) one two per kill... If I was there I would kick her out. Someone should... hate her. Lots of people hate her... She is dead mean. If I could get away with murder she would be the first one...

I hate her guts. If I ever see her I would knock her goofy teeth straight... The newspaper put in the proviso: "Socialist Worker does not necessarily approve of all the words used about Thatcher."

Mr Stewart told Mr Younger: "I fully accept the right of teachers to hold whatever political views they wish. But there has been, as you will know, increasing concern among many teachers and parents about infiltration into the English and Modern studies departments of Scottish schools of a significant number of members of the Socialist Workers Party and similar extremist groups."

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said last night that Mr Stewart's letter had just been received and a request for an investigation by the inspectorate would be considered.

Teacher disciplined: Mr William Harley, chairman of the Strathclyde Regional Council education committee, said yesterday that a male teacher who had sent essays by his pupils at a Glasgow school to the *Socialist Worker* had "certainly been disciplined, and I mean severely disciplined" (Our Glasgow Correspondent writes).

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Move to avert strike by civil servants fails

Civil servants' union leaders said they were determined that they would not embark on a strike that could be a long dispute after the failure of a last-minute attempt by the Government to head off next Monday's one-day strike and the planned campaign of disruptive action. The unions were told they would be no increase in the 7 per cent pay offer.

Front told not to march

Almond Yvond strongly advised the National Front not to march in their march past the house in south London where 13 young blacks died in a six weeks ago. The Home Secretary was asked to ban the march if Front leaders decide to go ahead.

Shot girl was used as 'sandbag' court told

A Birmingham labourer accused of murdering a pregnant girl of 16 with whom he had lived objected at his trial in Birmingham Crown Court to the allegation that he used her as a "sandbag" to absorb police gunshots. The girl died later.

Giscard poll tactics

M Giscard d'Estaing is concentrating in his electoral campaign on the issues of stability and security. This may win him back those conservative and Gaullist voters who supported him in 1974 and were disconcerted by the liberalism shown during his first years in office.

Arafat optimism

Mr Yassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has arrived in Tehran ahead of other members of an Islamic mission charged with attempts to end the Iran-Iraq war. He is "very optimistic" about the outcome of the talks.

Polish clergy's pact

Agreement has been reached in principle in negotiations between the Polish Government and the Church authorities on allowing the clergy access to hospitals, old people's homes and prisons in recognition of the Church's positive role in helping to restore social peace.

Basque truce fails

Fresh acts of terrorism by both extreme right and left-wing groups have dispelled hopes for an end to the wave of violence in the Basque country.

Anglo-Danish trade: A Special Report on trends in the economy and in investment since Denmark joined the EEC

Energy Futures: New technologies could revolutionise our power supplies during the next century. A Special Report 19-21

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 30, 32; La crème de la crème, 29, 30; Residential Property, 28, 29; Appointments, 7

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LONDON PARIS AMSTERDAM

HOME NEWS

Trade deals make a meal of Polish ham

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Ham and sausages are being imported from Poland even though the country faces imminent meat rationing. Meanwhile, cut-price British beef and pigfeed are being sold to Poland to ease the meat shortage.

But when Polish pigs fed with cheap British grain return to this country in shoddy and cooked form, they attract an EEC tax of 40 per cent to shield Community farmers from undercutting.

Poles eat more meat than most other Europeans, and EEC ministers adopted a plan in December to sell cheap food to Poland from Community surpluses. Britain has contributed more than 100,000 tonnes of cut-price beef to the programme and is about to sell 1,000 tonnes of beef to Poland for less than half the British wholesale price.

Polish suppliers were among a large contingent from Commonwealth countries at the International Food Exhibition in London yesterday. They hoped to attract orders from British grocers at the show, which is open only to trade visitors.

Mr Peter Kosmidis, sales director of L. Schneider, a large British importer of Polish sausages, said: "I can get all the meat I want. There is extra production available in Poland, and sales in Britain have been on the up and up."

The only shortages in Polish food supplies to Britain had been caused by poor harvests for some fruit and vegetables last year. "Where there are shortages they are not political," he said.

His company's trade leaflet offers 24 types of Polish sausage, and states: "Generous discounts increase your profit margin." Polish ham is sold as it is cut from the joint. Most ham sold in Britain from western producers is either made from compressed chopped meat or is injected with water.

Mr Kosmidis said that the EEC tax made Polish ham one of the most expensive in Britain. "The Polish Government did negotiate with Brussels, but we never got to hear of any result."

Czechoslovakia exhibited at the show for the first time. Its long list of goods in the catalogue included horses and feathers as well as poultry, sweets, wines, beer and spirits. A large Hungarian pavilion displayed frozen vegetables with the unexpected brand name of Royal Crown.

Girl's £28,000 damages

Kerrie Farrell, aged six, of Salting Road, Snodland, Kent, was awarded £28,000 damages in the High Court yesterday for injuries suffered in a road accident in May, 1977.

Jail escape plot 'daring', jury told

By Richard Ford

A helicopter was to be used in a daring plot to free a man while he was exercising in Brixton Prison, a judge alleged yesterday when seven people, including the prisoner, appeared on a conspiracy charge.

The helicopter would have flown the prisoner to a London park, from where he and his rescuers were to escape to a country house and the low, it was alleged.

The plan was said to have been ended after months of observation by detectives who watched several of the alleged conspirators.

The prisoner, Brian Keenan, aged 39, and the other defendants all deny conspiring between March 25 and December 13, 1979, to effect his escape.

The other defendants are Robert Campbell, aged 38, of Holland Park, west London; Margaret Farrar, aged 34, of Southgate, north London; Jacqueline O'Malley, aged 31, of Merton Hill, west London; Richard Glenholmes, aged 47, of Holland Park; Christine Keenan, aged 44, of Northria Ireland; and Robert Storey, aged 24, of Holland Park.

Mr Campbell, Mr Glenholmes

Curb sought on helicopter flights over London

By Arthur Reed

The use of private and commercial helicopters in central London should be phased out over the next five years and helicopter ports taken over by the Greater London Council for emergency services only, the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise said yesterday.

It also urged that the practice of allowing helicopters to pass over central London above the line of the Thames should be stopped immediately. Any helicopter not landing at the Battersea port should be diverted from the congested central area and required to follow such an orbital route as the line of the M25.

The association said the number of helicopter flights in the London area had increased steadily from 900 in 1972 to 1,700 in 1979.

When overflights and emergency flights were added to routine business flights the total of helicopter movements in the area was 14,000 a year.

The association's case was contained in a paper issued to



Chia-Chia, London Zoo's giant panda, with Miss Jacqueline Walker, a British Airways stewardess, before leaving for Heathrow yesterday. He flies to the United States tomorrow, where it is hoped he will mate with Ling-Ling, Washington Zoo's female.

Strike about pens halts bus service

From Our Correspondent

An unofficial strike by bus drivers who objected to using their own pens to fill out forms stopped services on 25 routes in St Helens, Merseyside, yesterday.

A hundred drivers employed by the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority bus service at St Helens walked out. They had said they would no longer use their own pens to fill in forms and would stop work if their employers did not supply pens.

When the crews reported for work yesterday they found that the company had supplied pens. But the men then refused to use them and stopped work. It was the latest in a series of industrial actions in the municipal bus services on Merseyside.

Minister told of health risk in illicit horsemeat trade

By Our Agriculture

Eight local authorities called on the Government yesterday to stop the trade in horsemeat which is sold as beef. Councils in the north-east, south-east and south-west of England, including the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, said that animal diseases might infect humans if the trade in meat continued.

He said after a meeting with Lord Ferrers, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, that the eight councils had "uncovered widespread evidence of illicit trade".

Lord Ferrers was told of "widespread unease" felt by many local authorities, and of "the unknown consequences of this practice on public health".

The minister said he would give "urgent and careful attention" to the council's appeal. He may force the Government to review the working of the Food and Drugs Act.

Mr Bruce Cove, chief Environmental Health Officer at Hammersmith and Fulham, said yesterday that sweeping changes were needed.

His staff are coordinating "Operation Meatbook", a national campaign by health officers to trace sources of meat illegally sold.

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Union power criticized at hearing

Individual workers must be protected against trade union power, a hearing in Strasbourg of the case of three employees dismissed by British Rail for refusing to join a trade union was told yesterday.

Mr Joachim Frowein, a member of the European Commission of Human Rights, which sent the case to the European Court of Human Rights after upholding the men's complaint of unfair dismissal, said: "In a country like the United Kingdom, with many trade unions, arrangements going under the name of closed shop agreements may be perfectly justifiable."

But he added: "We must be aware of the necessity to protect individual workers against trade union power. It would be a real loss of freedom to declare that someone could be dismissed after 18 years because he refuses to join an organization which has among others clearly ideological objectives."

Mr Frowein was speaking at the start of a two-day hearing

in which Mr John Young, aged 27, Mr Noel James, aged 52, and Mr Ronald Webster, aged 67, are claiming that the government was in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights by not upholding their freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression and freedom of association.

They were dismissed five years ago for refusing to join trade unions after a closed shop agreement was made between the railway unions and British Rail. Mr Webster had worked for British Rail for 18 years.

The government and the TUC will be putting their views to the court's 21 judges. Outlining the commission's case, Mr Frowein said it would be difficult to argue that the human rights convention was violated by the mere existence of closed shop agreements as they existed in the United Kingdom. However, it was quite a different matter to accept the dismissal of employees who had worked in an organization for

a long time before closed shop legislation was introduced.

He claimed that was not the general practice in Britain, and pointed out that almost two thirds of closed shop agreements in force in the United Kingdom placed no obligation on existing non-members to join a union.

"Trade unions may be among the most important institutions for the preservation of a free democratic society as it exists in our states," it was certainly in line with the human rights convention if trade unions were by legislation being protected to mask their position "as trustees of the workers".

The men's case is being backed by the Freedom Association. Mr Norris McWhirter, the Association's vice-chairman, said in Strasbourg yesterday: "This is a test case of immense importance because 6,500,000 people in Britain are now in closed shops, and 81 per cent of them want that system dismantled, according to polls."

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Rail chief's plea for £1,000m extra grant

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

Travellers on commuter rail services in London and the South-east faced a bleak decade unless the present financial restraints, £90m a year investment and £150m a year in grants, were raised, Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, told the House of Commons Transport Committee yesterday.

One inevitable consequence would be a contraction in peak hour services resulting in even more overcrowded trains. That could be accompanied by much higher fares, more cancellations and reduced punctuality as equipment wore out, increased road congestion and accidents, and long-term damage to London as a financial and tourist centre.

There was no way the London commuter services, carrying 500,000 passengers a day over 2,000 miles of track, could be made profitable. "If you want a megalopolis like London you have simply got to face the fact that like other major cities in Europe you have to make a contract payment to run it."

British Rail wanted an extra

£1,000m investment over the next decade, of which £250m would go on completing electrification and modern signalling, £200m on new rolling stock, £200m on new stations, interchanges, and communications, and £250m on more one-man operation.

Stations stay open: British Rail has bowed to pressure from the Greater London Council and amended its plan for cuts in June by keeping nine London suburban stations open later in the evenings and abandoning plans to close 15 on Sundays (the Press Association reports).

Amersley and Lee stations will stay open until 10 pm on weekdays. Both stations, together with Bickley, Shortlands, Eltham Park, Lower Sydenham, New Beckenham, Elstead Woods and West Dulwich, will stay open until 10 pm on Saturdays.

Albany Park, Elstead Woods, Lower Sydenham, New Beckenham, West Dulwich, Shortlands, Westcombe Park, Lee and Bickley, proposed for closure on Sundays, will be kept open. The six stations on the Hounslow loop service will have a limited service for 12 hours on Sundays.

Wisley inquiry told of air traffic hazards

By John Young

Planning Reporter

A public inquiry into the proposed reopening of Wisley airfield, Surrey, for general aviation was not competent to consider necessary changes in the air traffic systems affecting Heathrow and Gatwick airports, the inquiry was told at Guildford yesterday.

Mr Harry Zefferi, an aeronautical engineer and a former director of the British Aircraft Corporation's civil aircraft division, said at the start of the seventh week of the inquiry that such difficulties might take more than a year to resolve.

Mr Zefferi, who was giving evidence on behalf of the Stop

Wisley Airport residents' group, pointed out that Wisley lay in an uncontrolled corridor between London and Gatwick. The corridor had a maximum altitude of 2,500 feet, above which the airspace was controlled and used by passenger-carrying aircraft.

The inquiry proceedings had established that no precise knowledge existed of the traffic using the corridor. The safety of Wisley operations depended on that knowledge.

Because of the lack of information, and the uncertainty about future implications, the appeal by Jenstest Ltd against the refusal of planning permission by Guildford Borough Council should be dismissed, Mr Zefferi said.

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Actor fined for impersonating a police officer

Anthony Steedman, the television actor, was fined the maximum of £100 in Davenry yesterday for impersonating a police officer.

Mr Steedman, aged 53, of London Road, Albourne, Haslemere, Surrey, who plays Dr Butterworth in Crossroads, was also fined £10 for driving without a licence and £10 for failing to produce a certificate of insurance, all of which he admitted.

He was fined £30 for driving without consideration, which he denied.

Miss Katey Rushmore, for prosecution, said Mr Steedman's vehicle collided with another on the M1 near Watford Gap.

Mrs Diane Seisel, driver of the other car, said that Mr Steedman produced an anorak with the word "police" on the pocket.

Miss Rushmore read out a statement by a police sergeant who said Mr Steedman told police he had "

Pregnant girl shot in siege used as 'sandbag', QC alleges

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A man accused of murdering a girl aged 16 who was pregnant by him renounced with counsel for the prosecution when his trial opened at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday. He said he objected to the statement that he held her as a "sandbag" to absorb police gunfire.

David Keith Pagett, aged 31, a labourer, of Dealands Road, Rubery, Birmingham, told Mr Justice Park and Mr Douglas Draycott, QC for the prosecution: "I object to the continuous use of this word 'sandbag' which is quite unnecessary. I apologize for this disturbance, but it is totally unnecessary to use 'sandbag'—she was a person."

The judge told him he must control himself or he would be taken from the dock. Mr Pagett denies murdering Miss Gail Kinchin, who died last July, attempting to murder Mr James Wood, her stepfather, attempting to murder Detective Sergeant Thomas Sarain and Detective Constable Gerald Richards, unlawfully carrying away Miss Kinchin and her mother Mrs Josephine Wood, against their will, possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, and wounding with a shotgun to cause grievous bodily harm.

Mr Draycott said that before last June Mr Pagett had been living with Miss Kinchin. They were unmarried and she was heavily pregnant by him. Because of his violence towards her and parental persuasion, she left him and returned to live with her mother and stepfather.

On June 11 Mr Pagett acquired an over-and-under shotgun, cartridges, a Mini-car and a bottle of brandy. He attempted to trace the girl and arrived late at night at her parents' home in Brandwood Park Road, King's Heath, Birmingham. He was carrying the loaded gun and Mr Wood opened the door when he knocked, slammed it and ran out of the back door with his wife. Mr Pagett smashed the glass in the front door, got in and pursued them.

He aimed the gun at Mr Wood, but Mrs Wood knocked it up and the shot went into an upstairs bedroom. He fired again from 14 feet at Mr Wood, who was climbing over a garden fence; 100 pellets hit him in the leg and he collapsed.

Mrs Wood started to fight with Mr Pagett, who attacked her, demanding to know where

her daughter was. He dragged her to the car and drove off, holding the gun. They arrived at a house in Northfield, Birmingham, and he compelled Miss Kinchin to go downstairs with him.

The police began to follow the car. At one point it stopped and Mr Wood got away. They arrived at Dealands Road, where Mr Pagett had once lived in a flat with Miss Kinchin, using her as a shield. He entered the flat on the first floor.

Mr Draycott said three pairs of armed police officers began preparing for a siege. Sergeant Sarain and PC Richards went to the landing by the flat door and Mr Pagett poked out the gun. They told him they were armed. The door opened and they could see he was holding the girl in front of him. Mr Pagett told them to go downstairs but that meant walking past his gun muzzle. He pointed to a window on the landing and told them to jump out but instead they went up to the second floor.

Mr Pagett was on the landing below them. It was obvious that he came forward to shoot it out. Mrs Josephine Wood said: "They are testing me. I will show them..."

Mr Draycott continued: "They waited and round the bottom of the stairs came Gail, held in front of Pagett, with the shotgun, which he was about to fire. He was using this girl much as a soldier uses a sandbag. She was there to absorb the shot which would inevitably be returned when he fired."

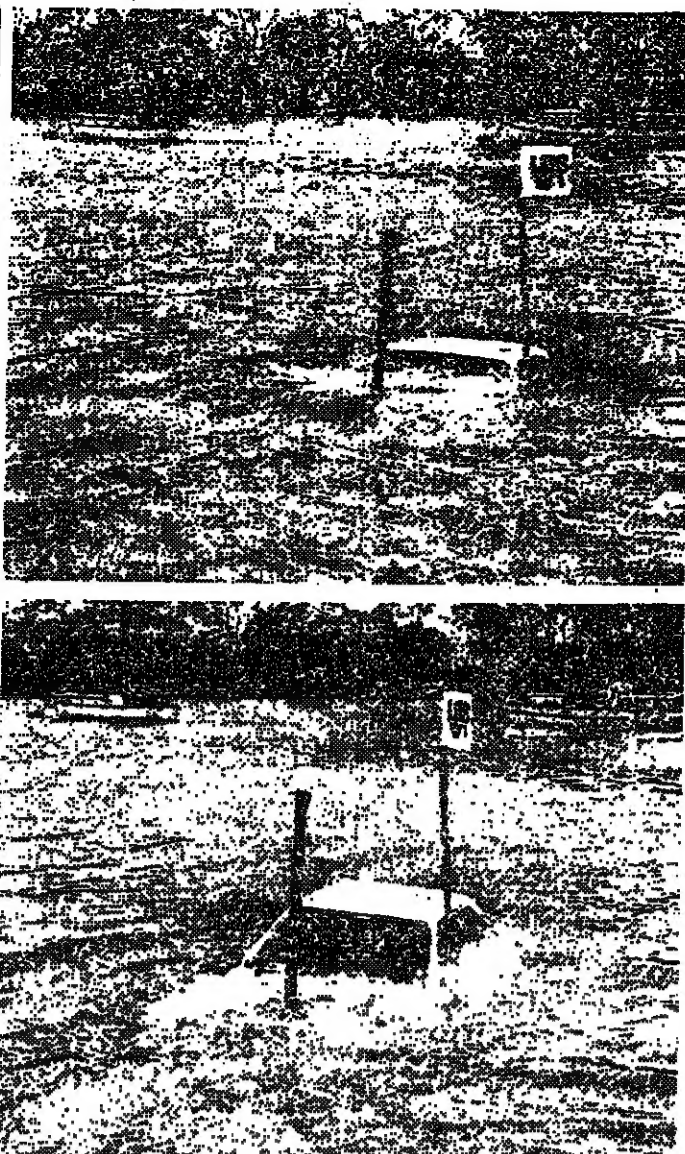
He fired twice—his was the first shot. It is quite plain that Pagett foresaw what would happen when he fired, otherwise there was no point in holding in front of him this pregnant girl."

His first shot went into the banister rail and ceiling. There was a series of shots from the officers above. He advanced two or three steps and fired again. That shot went over the officers' heads and they fired again. At some stage three bullets hit Miss Kinchin in the chest.

They both fell back and Mr Pagett was found sitting on the floor with the girl on top of him. Miss Kinchin died a month later, on July 11.

Mr Draycott said: "The police officers were acting in the course of their duty. No other course was open to them; they are entitled to defend themselves as you and I are."

The trial continues today.



Photographs by John Manning

Trial by water: Not a recommended way of avoiding the Putney Bridge bottleneck, but a demonstration under the Thames yesterday of the protective powers of an all-purpose spray used to coat the electrical equipment of this car before it was submerged and its exposed engine kept running and its lights ablaze beneath the surface (Craig Seton writes). Several times the car was driven six feet under water with a diver at the wheel during the demonstration by the Putney embankment organized by a large British car chemicals company which is launching the product, LPS 1, on the British market. Its makers claim it chases out moisture, lubricates, penetrates and inhibits rust.

Jury told of Moonies' plan to carry President Nixon

A plan by the Moonie cult to carry President Nixon shoulder-high through Washington at the height of the Watergate scandal was foiled when members were "taken by the scruff of the neck and tossed away by bodyguards, a High Court libel jury in London was told yesterday.

Mr Gary Scharff, a former Moonie, one of an eight-man team chosen to carry Mr Nixon, said the plan was ordered by Mr Sun Myung Moon, the leader of the cult, to give the impression that the President still had a lot of support.



Lord Diplock: "Interference with privacy minimized."

warrants cancelled if they were not providing useful information. Interception of communications, particularly telephone communications, was expensive in skilled manpower. A system of quotas for the total of warrants outstanding at any one time on behalf of the police and Customs and Excise provided added encouragement. Although the quotas appeared to be reasonable and adequate to the needs of the service concerned, their existence made it difficult to apply for warrants in borderline cases.

The security service, in cooperation with the Special Branch of the Metropolitan Police, used interception to gather intelligence about sub-

versive, terrorist and espionage activities capable of constituting a threat to the peace or safety of the realm. That involved longer-term objectives than those connected with tackling crime or with the duties of the Customs and Excise, so warrants for the security service tended to remain in force longer. The same applied to certain anti-terrorist interceptions on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch.

After carefully inspecting cases selected at random and holding discussions with the desk officer in charge of that particular case, Lord Diplock said he was satisfied that warrants were applied for only in proper cases and were not continued any longer than was necessary for carrying out their legitimate purpose.

The remaining conditions, relating to the speedy destruction of non-relevant material and the restriction of circulation of interceptive material, were being satisfied.

Recordings of telephone conversations were listened to by officers of the interceptive service who had been specially briefed on the case for which the warrant had been issued and on the kind of information it was hoped to obtain. The officer concerned would make a note of the gist or, if he regarded it as sufficiently important, the content of any recorded conversation that was relevant to the information sought.

The tapes were then returned to the Post Office for erasure,

Housing in crisis, 1: Islington hits back at critics of its buying policies

Government blamed for halting progress

No London borough provides more extreme contrasts in housing conditions than Islington. Parts of it have become synonymous with "gentrification" as the middle classes have moved in and transformed decaying terraces into expensive town houses.

Yet until recently Islington had the biggest accommodation shortage of any borough in London and, with Hackney, it still has the highest proportion of buildings classified as unfit.

It is the council's practice of buying properties and leaving them empty for months and years, because it cannot afford to modernize them.

Between 1972 and 1979 the council had provided more than 7,000 new homes and more than 4,000 renovated ones. Yet there were still nearly 10,000 people on the waiting list and, so far from being allowed to spend money on making its empty properties habitable, from April 1 it would be penalized by losing subsidy on those that remained vacant.

"But for the cuts, we would have a really effective modernization programme under way," he says. "But as it is, we cannot even do any proper forward planning, because we will not know our housing investment programme allocations until about two weeks before the start of the new financial year."

Mr Hopkins says the council has about 1,100 empty properties, of which about half are being modernized. He is particularly worried about the declining condition of older estates, where basic repairs are needed which will become more expensive the longer they are delayed.

New housebuilding is at the lowest peacetime level for more than fifty years. The construction industry, in the words of its leaders, is on its knees, with an estimated 400,000 unemployed, and a housing crisis in the mid-1980s is widely predicted. In four articles John Young looks at the effect of government-imposed spending cuts on public sector housing.

number of council properties now standing empty are the result of misplaced ideology.

Between 1972 and 1979 the council had provided more than 7,000 new homes and more than 4,000 renovated ones. Yet there were still nearly 10,000 people on the waiting list and, so far from being allowed to spend money on making its empty properties habitable, from April 1 it would be penalized by losing subsidy on those that remained vacant.

"But for the cuts, we would have a really effective modernization programme under way," he says. "But as it is, we cannot even do any proper forward planning, because we will not know our housing investment programme allocations until about two weeks before the start of the new financial year."

"We have abandoned all new development except what is essential for one small scheme. But we do have two big rehabilitation programmes, where we are carrying out structural alterations on council estates and generally improving the environment. With post-1948 blocks we can do the work while the tenants remain in their homes, but in pre-war buildings we have to decant them, and that means keeping other properties as temporary accommodation."

Mr Hopkins says the council has about 1,100 empty properties, of which about half are being modernized. He is particularly worried about the declining condition of older estates, where basic repairs are needed which will become more expensive the longer they are delayed.

Housing department officials point out that empty council properties, an increasing common sight, particularly in the north of the borough, prospective purchasers in surrounding areas.

Mr Hopkins argues that ruling Labour groups on council has acted responsibly and has not tried to deftly Government. Recently it has for the full 33 per cent increase in council rents recommended by the Department of the Environment. Most councils feel that municipalization gone far enough; they favour "social mix" as oppose the unbalanced position in east London boroughs.

But for all the Government emphasis on municipalization, the council has tried to do all housing, only about 70 of the borough's 32,000 tenants have so far applied to buy.

Like many others, Mr Hopkins believes that the effect of the cuts will not be felt for another two or three years. The rate of housing council has masked the real position. Next year our expenditure will be a third less in real terms, and, if this goes on, we heading for disaster."

Next: Manchester

In brief

'Ignore attacks' plea to English

An appeal to English holiday-makers to ignore arson attacks on holiday cottages in Wales was made yesterday by Councillor Gwilym Evans, the mayor of Dinffwr, Dyfed.

He was speaking after the fifty-second attack in 15 months, in which an isolated cottage at Llanfynydd, near Carmarthen, was badly damaged.

Sebastian Coe fined

Sebastian Coe, the Olympic gold medal runner, was fined £17 by magistrates at Glossop, Derbyshire, yesterday for driving his car at 56 and 58 mph in a 30 mph zone. The case had been adjourned so that Mr Coe, of Gladstone Avenue, Loughborough, could produce his driving licence.

Broadcaster fined

Mr Macdonald Hastings, aged 72, the author and broadcaster, was arrested for a drink-driving offence shortly after being told his wife had only a few weeks to live. Basingstoke magistrates heard yesterday. He was fined £100 and banned from driving for a year. Mrs Hastings died last month.

Eye test 'failure'

A woman motorist aged 83 failed an eye test a few minutes after she had knocked down a woman aged 93 as she inquest at Bournemouth heard yesterday. But took another test the next day and passed.

Richmond plan passed

The £20m scheme to redevelop 3.1 acres of land by the Thames at Richmond, Surrey, with offices, shops, houses and entertainment facilities was approved last night by the borough council.

Hiker found on moor

Mr Andrew Milne, aged 23, of Lightwood Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, a hiker who had been missing since last Monday morning on bleak Derbyshire moorland, was found alive near the Staffordshire border yesterday and taken to hospital.

Mint with a goal

The Royal Mint is inviting artists to submit design proposals for the reverse of the new £1 and 20p coins.

Tunncliffe's entire art estate to be sold at auction despite his wish

By Geraldine Norman
Sole Room Correspondent

The entire artistic estate of Charles Tunncliffe, the best known bird and animal artist of this century, is to be sold by Christie's on May 15. The sale runs directly counter to the artist's wishes.

After the exhibition of about 300 of his works at the Royal Academy in 1974 he expressed the wish that his lovingly guarded measured drawings and sketch books should be given to the academy after his death; his special wish, according to his close friend, Mr Kyffin Williams, RA, was that the collection should remain together. Christie's are to disperse it in a 350-lot sale.

The works to be offered are of great ornithological as well as artistic interest. First there are his measured drawings, accurate to within a millimetre, of birds and animals, of which dead specimens were brought to him for study.

They "are most beautifully laid out on sheets of paper in an exciting pattern of the bird's body with details of beak, wing and claw". Mr Williams wrote in an introduction to the 1974 exhibition. Dr Bruce Campbell, the distinguished ornithologist, points to their importance for the study of plumage.

Secondly, there are the sketch books, which record the posture and movement of the birds and animals that Tunncliffe patiently observed around his remote home in Anglesey. The measured drawings and sketch books were Tunncliffe's reference material for his delicate watercolours and illustrations.

Tunncliffe's graphic work is known throughout the world, from his illustrations to Henry Williamson's *Tarka the Otter*.

and *Salar the Salmon*, as well as his own book, *Shorelands Summer Diary*. His watercolours were regularly exhibited at the Royal Academy, in Bond Street, and at the Royal Academy.

The measured drawings and sketch books were left in his will to his sister, Mrs Dorothy Downes. "To be disposed of by her in accordance with any wishes and instructions." The residue of the estate, after specific bequests to Mrs Downes, went to nine nephews and nieces.

Shortly after his death in 1979 three of his close friends, Mr Williams, Mr Ian Niall (a biographer) and Mr Sean Hagarty were asked by Mrs Downes to arrange for his work to be lodged with a suitable institution, according to Mr Williams. But the residual legatees subsequently persuaded her that the sale of the drawings was the better course.

His anxious friends next suggested that the work should be sold en bloc to a suitable institution, or possibly ceded in lieu of tax.

The executors commented yesterday, through Christie's, that the option of a private treaty sale or in lieu deal had been carefully considered but rejected in favour of auction.

A group of the measured drawings is on exhibition at the Moray Art Gallery, in Llandudno, with a group of George Stubb's horse studies.

Christie's sale will contain 360 measured drawings, 52 sketch books, each sold as a separate lot, together with some manuscripts and watercolours. The sale's catalogue prices for the drawings will range from £100 to £2,000 and for the sketchbooks from £300 to £1,000.

Right-wing attack on Tory record

The Selsdon Group, a has among its vice-presidents Professor Alan Walters, said yesterday that Government was driving its porters to despair.

The group, formed by Edward Heath before he came to power, is composed of right-wing Tory MPs and others. Mr Walters, a Conservative MP, said in a paper published yesterday: "This Government's economic strategy suffered as sharp a reversal as any in the first two years of Mr Heath's Administration."

"Despite good intentions, some brave decisions, this servative Government has fit to a serious and disappointing extent in virtually all economic objectives it set before the election."

"It is now impossible to criticise the Government in practice with its present commitments. It is difficult to see how this Government now summoned up the will to take those measures which would have been so much easier had they been implemented at the moment Mrs Thatcher's Administration assumed office."

Mr Ritchie attacked Government's inability to manage the books balance by cutting public spending. As a result the chagrin of Conservative MPs, he cannot escape the conclusion that there is a real danger of inflation once a rising, and before the election.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, should use unemployment as an excuse for failing to reduce public borrowing, which should be done either by higher taxes or by cutting public spending including defence, education and health, he said.

LSE students occupy room in fee protest

By Our Education Correspondent

Students at the London School of Economics occupied the boardroom yesterday in protest against the proposed increase in fees for overseas students of at least 20 to 25 per cent.

Students at two other London

colleges, University and Queen Mary, are already occupying their administration buildings in a similar protest. A rally to discuss overseas student fees will be held at the university's student union today.

The students say it will be followed by some form of "direct action".

Representatives of the National Union of Students and Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday pressed their claims for a per cent increase in the maintenance grant for home students in the next academic year.



Pilot killed: The pilot of this Piper Cherokee aircraft was killed and his passenger seriously injured when it crashed in Loughton, Essex, yesterday. The pilot was Mr Henry Murray, aged 40, of Abridge, Essex.

BBC enters the market with £200 home microcomputer

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC announced its entry into the home computer business with details of an agreement with a British company to produce a microcomputer that will sell for £200.

An initial sale of 12,000 is expected and the machine will have a key role in a series of computer literacy starting on BBC 1 next January.

Mr George Howard, BBC chairman, said last night at Leeds Polytechnic that the system was "highly versatile". The BBC pointed out that while cheaper home computers have been advertised, one for only £99, the model it would be made under licence by Acorn, Cambridge, would be highly sophisticated. It will also have some highly practical applications. The user will be able to play games, plan the economical use of his domestic electricity supply, work out his tax liability and develop skills in mathematics, spelling and typing. It will help the businessman to run his office, and assist the amateur astronomer, musician and photographer.

These facilities will be available in print-out form, but also by adding a receiver costing about £100, through the television transmissions of the BBC, providing a range of computer programmes.

The computer will give access to the data available on the BBC's Ceefax and the Independent Broadcasting Authority's Oracle teletext systems, and by adding another well to British Telecom's Prestel data bank.

Lawyer to await ruling on dress tax relief

Miss Ann Mallalieu, aged 35, a barrister who wants relief on the cost of her work clothes, must wait to hear the High Court in London yesterday to hear Mr Justice Slade reserve judgment on her appeal against a tax commissioners' refusal to grant her an allowance.

Mrs Mallalieu said she was entitled to tax relief because she never wore her lawyers' clothes except for her work. She maintained that the black dresses, shoes and rights and the white blouses she had to wear for work did not suit her blonde colouring.

The outcome of the case is awaited with interest by the rest of Britain's 4,000 barristers, who include 500 women.

Lord Diplock finds controls on tapping are satisfactory

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Interception of communications, particularly telephone conversations, remained an effective and essential weapon for the maintenance of law and order and the safety of the realm, Lord Diplock, chairman of the Security Commission, said in a report to the Prime Minister yesterday.

He said the procedures used were working satisfactorily and with the minimum interference with the individual's rights of privacy in the interests of the public weal.

Lord Diplock acknowledged that the exercise by the state of any power to read or listen to communications between private citizens involved an invasion of their privacy; the public had always looked on that with suspicion and distrust. But crime had become more organized, international trafficking in drugs brought enormous profits and terrorism had become worldwide.

Lord Diplock did a random check of typical cases for which warrants for the interception of communications were sought by the three services whose practices he was reviewing: the police, the Customs and Excise and the security service. He tested whether six conditions were being observed:

1. That the public interest which would be served by obtaining the information was of sufficient importance.

2. That the interception applied for offered a reasonable prospect of providing the information sought.

3. That other methods of obtaining it had been tried and failed or were not feasible.

4. That the interception stopped as soon as it had ceased to provide information of the kind sought or it had become apparent that it was unlikely to provide it.

5. That all products of interception not directly relevant to the purpose for which the warrant was granted were speedily destroyed.

6. That such material as was directly relevant was given no wider circulation than was essential for carrying out that purpose.

Before any warrant could be issued the applicant service had to satisfy the Home Secretary or Secretary of State for Scotland that the first three of these conditions were fulfilled. If information given by the applicant services to justify the issuing of a warrant was not accurate, the main safeguard of requiring the warrant to be issued by the Secretary of State in person broke down.

Lord Diplock examined the files of cases he selected at random and talked to the officers directly involved. He was satisfied that the information provided was stated with accuracy and candour and the procedures within the three services for checking applications before submission were "appropriate to detect and correct any departure from the proper standards".

The applicant services and the Home Office or Scottish Office reviewed at fixed intervals, as required, the need for warrants, and he found there were also good practical reasons for the applicant services to be anxious to have

Warsaw authorities to grant clergy wider role in society

From Dossa Trevisan
Warsaw, March 3

The Polish Roman Catholic Church may regain access to institutions from which clergy were excluded in the late 1950s when relations between the Church and the communist regime deteriorated under Mr Wladyslaw Gomulka, the former party leader.

At a meeting held yesterday as part of negotiations between the Government and the Church Commission, it was suggested that the demands of the priests to be allowed access to hospitals, old people's homes and prisons would be granted though details still have to be negotiated.

But, judging by a communiqué issued after the meeting, an agreement in principle seems to have been reached and further talks between church representatives and the ministries and institutions directly concerned will be held.

The meeting provided again an opportunity for the Government to underline the "positive role" played by the Catholic Church in helping to restore social peace in Poland after the 1956-57 crisis.

In his parliamentary address on his election to the premiership, General Jaruzelski pledged his Government to continue to work for an improvement in relations with the Church.

The Church's responsible and patriotic stand was also underlined by the army newspaper, *Zolnierz Wolności* yesterday, but while it praised the stand taken by the episcopate and especially by Cardinal Wyszyński, the Polish Primate, throughout the crisis, it accused some clergymen of using the pulpit for political, often inflammatory speeches.

This is the first such complaint for a long time to be made against the clergy, even though the newspaper was careful to draw a distinction between the Church hierarchy and the lower clergy whom it said showed "political zeal" aimed against social peace and order.

The newspaper, which obviously reflects the views of the Ministry of Defence, said that some priests were showing

"fierce anti-socialist militancy and that some of their speeches, presumably in their parishes, were meeting with approval of some groups of believers connected with dissident groups."

The newspaper also alleged that some priests regarded Cardinal Wyszyński's plans with hostility and claimed that he had "sold himself to the communists."

But the general tone of Government statements and official newspaper comments is to underline the positive role of the episcopate in calming the atmosphere and in calling for understanding of the situation.

Cardinal Wyszyński has, however, been urging the authorities to recognize the rights of the 3.5 million private farmers to form their own association.

In a homily delivered recently in St John Cathedral in Warsaw, the cardinal said that the private farmers had the right to the same kind of organization that was granted to industrial workers.

He also told the authorities to set up such associations that would suit their interests best.

He blamed Poland's present food shortages largely on the Government's agricultural policy which the church had been criticizing for years.

This year, Poland will have to import some 10 million tons of grain. In the Government's new programme, agriculture is to be given top priority and the private farmers have been promised equal opportunities with the state-run farming estates.

But the agricultural tool industry is obviously not responding fast enough and shortages of spare parts are threatening to put at least 40,000 tractors out of work.

Walesa visit: Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the independent trade union movement Solidarity, will visit France from March 22 to 29 at the invitation of French trade unions.

Solidarity announced tonight (Reuters reports from Warsaw). It will be Mr Walesa's second trip abroad as leader of Solidarity. He will be accompanied by a number of union officials.

press conference here tomorrow. Mr Arafat was very optimistic about the outcome of the talks. This feeling may have been encouraged by some small chinks Iran has shown in its defiant attitude since the mission left Tehran on Sunday.

A special meeting between Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, and President Bani Sadr of Iran, to discuss the mission today indicated that Iran was at least giving the delegation more credence than to previous efforts.

But foreign military observers in Tehran reacted coolly to a suggestion made by General Valiollah Fallahi, the deputy chief of staff, last night that Iran might agree to a short ceasefire in order to allow Iraq to withdraw its troops.

While a few observers wrote it off as a mere "public relations exercise", others said it reflected at best the view of the moderate political camp in Iran.

A military spokesman and an eyewitness said the helicopter hit a lamp post as it took off and the machine, a Soviet Mi8, exploded as it hit the ground.

The four crew and Defence Ministry officer who survived are being questioned.

The bodies of nine generals and four other senior officers

Fishing boats ferrying in weapons from Nicaragua easily evade three patrol ships

Tiny Navy fails to halt flow of arms to El Salvador rebels

From Michael Leapman
La Unión, El Salvador, March 3

As the small, grey patrol ship, one-third of El Salvador's functioning Navy sputtered out into the volcano-fringed bay here, one of the journalists on board said: "I wonder whether we'll catch any Nicaraguan arms smugglers."

Not much chance. The three ships working out of a theoretical fleet of eight have never managed to intercept any of the tons of arms believed to be coming by sea from Nicaragua, 29 miles across the Gulf of Fonseca, to the left-wing rebels fighting in the hills.

Lieutenant-Commander Humberto Villalta, commander of the country's only naval base, says he estimates that more than 20 ships, each capable of carrying up to three tons of arms, must have slipped into one of the dozens of little rock-framed harbours at this eastern end of the country's 170-mile coastline.

One boat caught in a cluster of fishing boats bobbing in the sunlit bay. "You could hide rifles and ammunition in those, and you can't control it."

Even if his guess at the number of arms ships is correct, it is still a puzzlingly small proportion of the 600 tons of arms and ammunition that have been smuggled here, according to captured documents published by the State Department in Washington.

The two other main routes—by air from Nicaragua and across—difficult mountain terrain from Honduras—can scarcely account for the difference.

Lieutenant Nelson Aristides Angulo, crisply turned out in a khaki uniform, is captain of GCG, one of the three working ships. As we eased between hilly headlands into the open bay, he said that many of the arms may come not in large shipments but in two and three at the bottom of a fishing boat.

If this is the case, Nicaragua's assurance this week that it will halt supplies may be hard to fulfil.

"Look at those, those and those", he said, pointing to a cluster of fishing boats bobbing in the sunlit bay. "You could hide rifles and ammunition in those, and you can't control it."

"The trouble is these patrol boats are too noisy," he had a colleague go up there," he pointed to the top of a volcano and said he could hear us from that distance. The Nicaraguan boats hear us coming and have time to turn away."

He took us to the edge of El Salvador's territorial waters, marked by a line of five large rocks jutting suddenly from the sea. These, the Farallones Islands, are the physical manifestation of the line President Reagan has drawn between the free and the communist worlds.

To his east are the waters of left-wing Nicaragua. Rising behind them is Cusi Guina, Nicaragua's western extremity, where—according to Salvadoran officers—a modern port and radar facilities have been built to help the arms flow.

Commander Villalta points out that his tiny Navy is not only under-manned but also under-equipped. We have 150 men, he said. "We need 1,000 and many more ships." Of these 150, only three are officers, one for each working ship.

At the weekend three American advisers went to see what help could be given to the Navy and a further seven Americans are due today.

"They are surprised at what they saw," said Commander Villalta. "They have seen the deprivation in our supplies. I think they will help."

Help is needed, but the Americans may have been even more surprised at the lack of any sense of the base being on a war footing. It is a collection of ramshackle buildings at the end of a cobbled street in a somnolent port, where the only signs of the civil war are the well-armed soldiers jolling on strategic corners. When a few reporters visited the base on Sunday afternoon, the duty officer and the commander were having a siesta.

It is still something of a mystery what happens to the arms that are supposed to be coming to the rebels in such great numbers. At the weekend government troops completed a successful five-day land and air counter-offensive, in which they regained some of the areas

the guerrillas won in their "final offensive" in January. The leftists do not seem to have made much of a fight of it, even on the Conchagua volcano just behind this coast where their arms arrive.

Government troops flushed them out of their hilltop hideaway, meeting little resistance. Among the captured weapons shown to reporters, only three out of 16 rifles were modern ones, of the kind the United States has accused communist powers of supplying. Many of the rest were ancient, though there were a few Russian grenades.

It could be that the guerrillas are saving the modern weapons for a new offensive planned for May, when the set of the rains will thicken the undergrowth and make concealment easier.

But after last week's successful operation by government forces, the rebels have lost many of their January gains and will have to start from a weak position, battling government troops refreshed by extra American help.

Washington, March 3
The United States decided to step up its military involvement in El Salvador where American-backed government forces are fighting wing rebels.

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Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, told reporters that Washington has now received "certain assurances" from Managua that the flow of arms to the rebels would be taken to the flow of war material to the rebels from Cuba via Nicaragua and Honduras. Indeed, Am can threats to cut off aid to the Government of Nicaragua unless that country stops shipment of arms across its territory appear to be paying off.

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US steps up military assistance to junta

From David Cross
Washington, March 3

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Arafat optimism over Tehran peace mission

From Tony Alloway
Tehran, March 3

Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, arrived in Tehran tonight to resume talks on ways of ending the five-month Iran-Iraq war.

He arrived from Saudi Arabia one day ahead of the scheduled return of other members of a special Islamic mission charged with attempting to draw the two sides towards peace. The mission, which includes four heads of state, has already visited Tehran and Baghdad once this week and is conferring in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

The Palestinian leader told the official Pars news agency that there were no special reasons for his arrival ahead of the rest of the mission. He said that Mr Habib Chatti, the Secretary-general of the Islamic Conference and a member of the mission, would discuss the results achieved so far in a

press conference here tomorrow. Mr Arafat was very optimistic about the outcome of the talks. This feeling may have been encouraged by some small chinks Iran has shown in its defiant attitude since the mission left Tehran on Sunday.

A special meeting between Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, and President Bani Sadr of Iran, to discuss the mission today indicated that Iran was at least giving the delegation more credence than to previous efforts.

But foreign military observers in Tehran reacted coolly to a suggestion made by General Valiollah Fallahi, the deputy chief of staff, last night that Iran might agree to a short ceasefire in order to allow Iraq to withdraw its troops.

While a few observers wrote it off as a mere "public relations exercise", others said it reflected at best the view of the moderate political camp in Iran.

A military spokesman and an eyewitness said the helicopter hit a lamp post as it took off and the machine, a Soviet Mi8, exploded as it hit the ground.

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30,000 march in protest against trade union militancy

From Our Correspondent
Wellington, March 3

The heroine in Auckland today was Miss Tania Harris, an office worker of 22, who led a crowd of about 30,000 in a march along Queen Street in protest against trade union militancy. It was one of the biggest demonstrations there for 30 years.

Miss Harris, who carried the New Zealand flag, was overwhelmed by the response. She says she is not against trade unions but for New Zealand.

Key sections of the economy were returning to normal today after week-long troubles provoked by the arrest of pickets at Auckland airport. Baggage men and other members of the

Engineering Union employed by Air New Zealand went on strike first over wages and then in protest at the airline's use of non-union labour.

Other workers throughout the country mainly in transport, and in the processing industries went out in sympathy.

The Federation of Labour joined the protest against the arrest of pickets who have been remanded on charges of violating the airport security.

Last week the Government rejected the federation's plea to abandon the prosecutions. Instead it is expected to agree to discuss with the federation the possibility of giving legal sanction to peaceful picketing.

In return, the federation has ordered all strikers back to work.

The anti-strike march in Auckland with its theme: "We have had enough" and patriotic fervour undoubtedly reflected widespread public resentment at trade union militancy and the inconvenience and economic loss

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Book review

British Government and its Discontents

By Geoffrey Smith and Nelson W. Polsty

(Harper & Row, £7.95)

A conversation with either Mr Smith or Professor Polsty is a pleasure; a conversation with both of them is a real treat. It will not therefore surprise their many friends, admirers, and students that *British Government and its Discontents*, which is based on conversations between the two authors, is enjoyable, well-informed, and wise.

The book was presumably intended mainly for an American audience, it assumes only the sketchiest knowledge of Britain. But it could and should be read on this side of the Atlantic too, as one of the more valuable additions (despite its self-imposed limitations) to the mounting literature on British decline.

The authors bring different qualities to the book. Mr Smith is thorough, fair, and judicious; the section on devolution presumably owes much to him and reminds us that he has written better on this subject than any other commentator. Professor Polsty brings to his first study of our political system, trenchant wit and abundant commonsense which have been the hallmarks of his work on American politics. What the authors have in common is a belief in the high importance of the political arts, not least in mobilizing and retaining consent for the purposes of government in a free society.

"Britain", the authors note, "is to be distinguished from such countries as Canada and Brazil in that it has become a middle-sized power through shrinkage not growth". They concede that Britain is still a more agreeable country in which to live than many which are more prosperous. Continued economic decline, and the prospect of relative decline becoming absolute, could change all this and threaten our social stability and our traditions of civility and tolerance.

There is no schmalz in their balanced descriptions of Britain today; unlike one or two recent American correspondents, in this country (presumably still paid at home rates) they do not find in Britain's failure to cope successfully with its problems a convincing picture of what the rest of the world should try to be like. Nor do they go to the other extreme and write off any chance of recovery. Britain is not necessarily sliding to destruction with, as our former ambassador in Washington once argued, wide or no chance of making our economic appetites compatible with our democratic liberties. There should be an up-turn in the J-curve.

That will only happen, however, if we recover our nerve and our optimism. The authors argue that in order to do that we must strengthen our political institutions "by broadening their capacities to build public consensus". They would like to see an increase in parliamentary control over the executive; this would ensure not only better government and legislation but also a greater measure of popular consent for what is done in the public's name. Similarly, we need to open up the process of decision-making within government itself. The responsibility for the mistakes and the successes of public policy "must be widely shared as a means of increasing the legitimacy of government among those who bear its costs and reap its benefits".

There is plenty of room for argument about the specific remedies advanced by Mr Smith and Professor Polsty. But there will be broad and increasing agreement with the two propositions on which much of their case rests. First, as the late Mr. Macmillan once said, most economic problems can be solved only by political means; in the authors' words, "arguments over economic strategy are secondary to the problem of creating the political conditions for any economic policy to be successful".

Second, a party that aspires to be the natural governing party cannot afford to be consistently ideological.

Chris Patten

Only the best is good enough for Broadway

New York

There are two barometers of the state of Broadway which are clearly visible without the need to cross a theatre threshold. One is the queue which winds from the cut-price ticket booth on Times Square and the other is the queue for Wednesday lunch at the myriad of tiny restaurants between 42nd and 55th Streets on the West Side.

A few days ago, when a 36-hour rainstorm had transformed New York from a tough City, which it had been dubbed in the press for most of February, to something rather closer to Monsoon City, the queue for reduced price seats, lashed by the heavens, coiled and serpentine down towards the New York Times building. Those in line waited patiently because for the lucky there were good pickings: for example, \$12 off a seat at the Met for the one performance of the season in Verdi's *La Traviata* in *maccheroni*. A high proportion of what is on offer is excellent.

At 1.00 pm on Wednesdays the Broadway restaurants are packed and by 2.00 pm they are almost deserted as the clientele have gone off to the most sacred of New York institutions, the midweek matinee. The ladies from Westchester head for the non-lyric theatre, of which the best of the new bunch is *Flirt of July* at the New Apollo with Christopher Reeve dropping his Superman wings to play an immobile Vietnam veteran—shades of Jon Voight in *Coming Home*.

The families head for the musicals. Just how many children take time off from school right in the middle of term has never been satisfactorily explained to me. But it could be argued that an afternoon spent at *The Pirates of Penzance* (Uris) improves the mind, to say nothing of the spirits, more than a couple more hours in the classroom.

The current Broadway boom is founded on the musical and the competitive vigour that it generates. Everything is rehearsed down to the last half-second. If the material is a little thin here or there then it is the job of the director and performers to do the covering up so that most of the audience will not notice. Take, for instance, *A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine*. Dick Vosburgh's musical double bill made a mildly diverting entertainment when it was seen at the Mayfair in London, fine if you had dined well but of no more than university level standard if you were feeling critical.

At the Royale it has been transformed into a zippy and sophisticated evening thanks to



Gregory Hines in *Sophisticated Ladies*—some of the best tap seen on Broadway for many a year

the sets of Tony Walton and the choreography of Tommy Tune, who is currently in charge of *Whorehouse* at Drury Lane. Preference for the first half of the bill, a sing and dance down Hollywood's memory lane, or the second, a Marx Brothers invasion of Chekhov's *The Bear* (territory also visited by another Walton, Sir William), will depend on your attitude towards those immortal four. As a devotee, I will take *The Bear*, and in particular the Harpo of Frisella Lopez. It is, though, going to make the Walton opera that much more difficult to listen to in future.

The exceedingly high standards in the musical theatre are making producers more and more reluctant to open officially until they are sure as they can be that the product is right. The queue of productions waiting to get into Broadway

at the moment is such that there is little inclination to nurse suckly shows; the patient is turfed out of bed to make way for something healthier. Even *Pirater*, which appears to be assured of capacity houses for some time to come, looks as though it will be ejected from the Uris later in the summer because that theatre is already committed to the Rex Harrison revival of *My Fair Lady*.

It was probably the old, familiar sensation of someone else breathing down the neck that caused all three of last week's major openings to be postponed: Donald Sutherland in Edward Albee's version of *Lothal*, Chita Rivera and Donald O'Connor in *Back Birdie* (Bye Bye Birdie twenty years after) and *Sophisticated Ladies*, a tribute to Duke Ellington. First nights on Broadway now seem to be as adjustable as they were under

the late Walter Felsenstein at the Komische Oper in Berlin. He had a majestic disregard for dates and rang up the curtain only when he was ready, which is in direct contrast to the West End's dictum of sticking to schedule and hoping for the best.

Perhaps, to judge from *Sophisticated Ladies*, which has now been unveiled, the Felsenstein-Broadway approach pays off. Ladies had its troubles, apparently, while out on the road but under the direction of Michael Smuin they have sets—Tony Walton again—which put the band on the kind of platform a good night club would provide, atmosphere was created simply through neon signs.

The legendary nighties flash by—The Cotton Club, Cafe Society, After Hours joint—and so do the numbers, 20 in each half. The Duke is

remembered chiefly in dance. Gregory Hines producer of some of the finest tap seen on Broadway for a long time, with Houston Eadie (former Dance Theatre of Harlem) and Judith Jamison (former Alvin Ailey). Broadway has never hesitated to raid the ballet companies in search of performers, or for that matter the Manhattan supper clubs. By casting the trawl wide the quality is raised, as it has been here. *Sophisticated Ladies* is the best of the present long line of composer-performer musicals and when Miss Jamison and Mr Hines combine in "I'm beginning to see the light" we hear the very best of Ellington. And that is very good indeed.

The versatility of artists in London is remarkable. Gregory Hines can dance, tap, sing, even take over on percussion. He can also play the audience, an art surely best acquired in those Manhattan supper clubs. At *Ladies*, the lady side a lady called Pudge, who lives up to her name without overdoing it, has an act consisting entirely of insulting those who have come to see her. It is not the Barry Humphries or Bruce Forsyth technique of picking on a few unfortunates in the stalls, but the readiness to take on one and all, like some prefigured of the future. The art lies in thinking quicker than anyone else and also knowing when to stop before a martini is thrown in your face. It is called professionalism.

There are times when a visiting Englishman is inclined to despair and begin to believe that this professionalism is an entirely American quality. Not so. To prove it there are *Amadeus* and *Plaf*, both considerably changed for Broadway but both announcing their active origins. There is Simon Gray's *Close of Play* just opened at the Manhattan Theatre Club and there is Nicol Williamson in John Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence*, taking the role once more as Maitland at Roundabout/Stage One. Jim Dale has made *Barnum* his own and *Tessie O'Shea* opens in *Broadway Follies* in the middle of the month. Ian Richardson as *Capote* and next in dress and diction as Alec McCowen, may well steal such honours as are going as Humbert Humbert's alter ego in *Lothal*.

And above all there is George Rose as Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance*. *Accents* no substitutes. Well, on the afternoon I saw *Pirates* Linda Ronstadt, substituted by Karla DeVito, former lead singer of Meat Loaf, who looks every inch a four-star star. But Mr Rose is unsuitably his model of a major-general is the top performance of this ebullient Broadway season.

John Higgins

Hedda Gabler

Yorkshire

Michael Church

Costumes? Loved them. Decor? Ravishing. Soundtrack? Exquisite. Adaptation? Excellent (ie, did not notice it). How nice to be able to be nice about a dramatic work by John Osborne. Despite Yorkshire Television's efforts, however, I feel I have seen no more than the mighty shadow of the real *Hedda Gabler*. This has little to do with the inherent limitations of the medium (about which Mr Osborne has some pertinent things to say in his typically splendid piece in this week's *TV Times*). It has a lot to do with the quality of the controllable element in the production process, casting.

For Ibsen, the sap was still rising. He described Tesman as a young-looking 33 with a round, frank, happy face. Hedda was an elegant 25, Mrs Elvsted, 27, was "a slender little thing with pretty, soft features". Brack was a suave and youthful 43.

Last night Denis Lill, Diana Rigg, Elizabeth Bell and Alan Doherty each looked, or were made to look, a decade older than their exemplars. Each looked worn down by life. The sexual tensions at the core of the piece were thus at least partially dissipated.

There was so much to admire in the way this production built up its suffocatingly genteel atmosphere that it seems chur-

lish to find further fault, but in another major respect it did not live up to expectation. The climax, which should come like the anticipated crack of doom, came like a surprise, and almost as a surprise. We needed a trace of Hitchcockian suspense. Rather than being shown it, we should have been made to picture the scene as Hedda thumps the piano for the last time, and the explosion itself should have been much louder.

That Hedda's suicide should have come as a surprise, rather than as her characteristically morbid response to a situation she could not endure, has to do with the way Diana Rigg played the part. Cruel, capricious, disdainful, her every utterance betrayed an intelligence which ran rings round everyone else; her every gesture a sensibility which made other people's seem crude and fumbling. Unwillingly pregnant, she was in a permanent rage.

But there was something coldly controlled about her, something too impressive at moments when she should have been beside herself with excitement, burning Löbberg's manuscript, for example. This Hedda would have found some other way out of her marital predicament. Oddly enough the Hedda who remains so severely on my mind is the one presented eight years ago on the stage of the Royal Court, and in this same adaptation, by Jill Bennett.

Floor PUNCH and Judy. At the hands of the Arts Council's film-makers (BBC) the history of their troubled marriage was not so much tarted up as tarted out of existence.

Cabaret Futura

Latin Quarter

Richard Williams

For four hours each Monday night Richard Williams takes over a Soho discotheque to present a variety of rock bands, comedians, performance artists and other like-minded exhibitionists under the banner of Cabaret Futura. After only a few weeks it has gained a reputation as the place where all the posturing diversity of the metropolitan avant-garde rock scene gathers to relax and inspect itself.

Strange, formerly the singer with the late and unlamented Doctors of Madness, plainly has an affection for the cabarets of Weimar Berlin: the ambience is sleazy, the clientele is pansexual, and the entr'acte tapes included Scott Walker's interpretations of Jacques Brel and someone singing Surabaya Johnny. These gestures, of course, only make explicit those connexions first suggested by Lou Reed in the late '60s and later followed up by David Bowie.

This week's programme began with Mick Firkbank, an unheralded performance artist from Leeds. Probably inspired by Jonathan Pryce in *Comedians*, he adopted the character of a British Movement skinhead in a clumsy but obviously heartfelt attempt to explain the reasons why culturally deprived white youths fall for amateur fascism. Unfortunately

his presentation, with slides and music and costumes and props, did not match his evident sincerity, and his purpose was widely misunderstood.

The Event Group, who followed Firkbank, are Cabaret Futura regulars, with a proverbially inconsistent collective temperament. On this occasion they those in a variety of rock bands, comedians, performance artists and other like-minded exhibitionists under the banner of Cabaret Futura. After only a few weeks it has gained a reputation as the place where all the posturing diversity of the metropolitan avant-garde rock scene gathers to relax and inspect itself.

Two of the New York bands which played at the Rainbow 10 days ago also put in appearances: the Bush Tetras, whom I thought we had departed after that debacle, and the Bongos, who were lumpy and unspectacular. Cabaret Futura is such an interesting environment, however, that sooner or later it will throw up a group or an artist to match its ambitions.

ENO's new Wagner

Two new Wagner productions, *Tristan and Isolde* and *The Flying Dutchman*, frame next year's season at the London Coliseum from the English National Opera, which includes three other new productions, the first London presentation of its Monteverdi *Orfeo* and at least 16 revivals.

Reginald Goodall will conduct *Tristan*, which opens on August 3, and, as for *Welsh National Opera*, Linda Esther Gray will sing *Isolde*. She will be partnered by Alberto Remedios in a production by Glen Rym Shy and John Blanchley, designed by Hayden Griffin.

Later in the month there will be *Orfeo*, with John Eliot Gardiner conducting and Anthony Rolfe Johnson leading the cast. It will be followed on September 24 by *Otello*, with Charles Craig, Ronald Plowright and Neil Howlett; this will be conducted by Mark Elder, the ENO's music director, produced by Jonathan Miller and designed by Patrick Robertson and Rosemary Vercoe.

Charpentier's *Louise* will be presented on October 28 in a

co-production with the Opera at Liège, Belgium. Produced by Colin Graham and designed by René Allio and Christine Laurent, it will be conducted by Sylvain Cambreling, with a cast led by Valerie Masterson, John Treleaven and Richard Van Allan.

Pelléas and Mélisande will open on November 25, with Mark Elder conducting and Russell Smythe and Eileen Hannon in the title roles. It will be the first London production by Barry Kuper and will be designed by Peter Szykora and Reinhard Heinrich.

The *Flying Dutchman* will be presented on February 10 next year, conducted by Elder and produced by David Pountney. Norman Bailey will sing the title role and Josephine Barston that of Senta.

Sir Charles Mackerras will conduct three of the revivals: *Rosengarten*, with Lois McDonald and Sally Burgess; *Aida*, with Elizabeth Vaughan; and *Mary Stuart*, with Dame Janet Baker and Rosalind Plowright.

Martin Huckerby

Exploring byways of the ballet

Dance films
The Place

John Percival

On four successive Mondays at The Place, the London School of Contemporary Dance is presenting a series of dance films. The first programme this week was mostly ballet; contemporary dance comes next, followed by dance ritual and, finally, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in *Flying down to Rio*.

Actually, the work I found most interesting in the opening programme, which was also the longest of the seven films shown, was an early example of German modern dance, Oskar Schlemmer's *Triadic Ballet*. Schlemmer, a painter and dancer, invented a theory of abstract dance in which the performers were to be depicted by bulky geometric costumes made of padded cloth or stiff, painted papier-mâché.

The *Triadic Ballet* was the most famous example, premiered in 1922 at Stuttgart, before Schlemmer joined the Bauhaus. The filmed version is of a reconstruction made in 1970. The choreography is simple, relying heavily on the shape and colour of the costumes for its effect, but within that self-imposed limitation the results are often striking. Although the technique is one of abstraction, the work includes both humorous and sinister passages.

Janina Fialkowska

St John's/Radio 3

Hilary Finch

For her first recital in St John's, Smith Square, the young Canadian pianist Janina Fialkowska chose a short Chopin programme, introduced by the early Beethoven C major Sonata, Op 2 No 3.

Slight, refreshingly unassuming, her stage presence belies in all but its seriousness the massive strength and driving energy which permeates everything she plays. The concerto-like first movement of the Beethoven was propelled forward with more decisive earnestness than brio, its structure firmly grasped and clearly delineated; yet there was room within its vitality for a finely controlled arpeggio passage, delicately sharpening into focus before a brisk, no-nonsense cadenza. After an Adagio of compelling, if deceptively leisurely, strength, the exuberant Scherzo with its hurtling Trio was perhaps a shade too hurried for the final *Assai Allegro* to have its full force. The precisely calculated, in-

I suspect that Schlemmer's work may look better on screen than on stage. Norman McLaren's Canadian *Pas de deux* could only on film since it depends entirely on the superimposed multiple images to reinforce some pallid choreography. Another duet, *In a Rehearsal Room*, was even more schmalzy.

What with those on the one hand, and two examples of post-war French expressionism on the other, the programme spent time exploring byways of ballet. Still, the French works had splendid performances, from Michèle Seigneuret and Maurice Béjart in the latter's *Symphonie pour un homme seul*, Jeanmaire and Nureyev in Roland Petit's *Jeune femme et la Mort*.

It is always interesting, too, to see the film made by Douglas Fairbanks *Bar of Pavoria* in which six of his dances, even though one of them is shown at disastrously accelerated speed. I thought, however, that John Mueller's montage of photographs and drawings of Nijinsky in *L'Après-midi d'un faune* gave little idea of that baller's structure or mood.

A rag-bag of a programme, all told. Perhaps later programmes will make more apparent the intended theme of the relationship between camera and choreography. Or perhaps that is too vague a topic to hold up anyway.

tensively disciplined playing that invigorated this last movement, yet threatened to deprive it of a certain spontaneity, characterized Miss Fialkowska's Chopin no less markedly. There was so much to admire in the A flat major Ballade, the non-chalant, totally unassuming, charming and quelling of its opening bars, the firm-fingered fluency and arm strength that sustained a powerful momentum at climax points.

Likewise, for all its poise and clarity, the opening of the C minor Nocturne, Op 48 No 1, lacked a gentle flexibility, a sense of hushed, imaginative exploration to contrast adequately with the more rigorous rhythmic life which developed. After a forthright, brightly angry C sharp minor Scherzo, Miss Fialkowska's encore, the A flat major Waltz, confirmed that here was a delightfully bold, direct player, full of power and joy articulated through a disciplined technique and intelligent musicianship. Miss Fialkowska need not be afraid of being less rigorous with herself interpretatively: such a sturdy and reliable foundation often craves and can easily withstand being graced with a little more poetry.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.



Photograph by Donald Cooper

Helen Mirren.

Faith Healer

Royal Court

Irving Wardle

"I did it because I can do it", announces Brian Friel's hero, causing a disconcerting glance around an empty meeting hall with a faded poster on the back wall advertising his miraculous powers. What the rest of the play shows is that sometimes he can do it, and sometimes he cannot, but that throughout his vagabond years, touring the Celtic outside, he can always rely on the support of his manager and his mistress. They are totally devoted to him; while he is devoted only to his capricious gift.

From this discordant relationship, Mr Friel develops a strange homecoming fable: in Ireland when Frank (the faith healer) elopes with a judge's daughter, drags her round his Welsh and Scottish circuit where occasional successes turn into an unbroken run of failures, rows and destruction, returning their lowest point when he abandons her to deliver a stillborn child in the back of the van. The trio then return to Ireland, where on one night in a Donegal pub, his powers return and he walks out to face an unnamed fate. My

guess, from row A, is that he is shot at dawn.

A bigger question than that is why Mr Friel, with such a story to tell, should have put it in the form of four retrospective monologues; an approach that dilutes the impact of the events, eliminates relationships and, present-tense action, and involves the author in agonies of cumbersome exposition. "I tell you what, why don't I go back 12 months and tell you about that night?"

Mr Friel is an experienced craftsman and certainly knew the risk he was taking; but the only explanation I can offer is that he was more concerned with the effects of time and the fallibility of subjective memory than with more immediate dramatic qualities. A sneaking suspicion also lingers that he was himself undecided about precisely what the story was saying, and took advantage of his characters' conflicting memories.

As each appears in turn, Frank, Grace, and Teddy contradict each other on points of detail: parentage, dates of family deaths, or who was responsible for introducing Frank's sessions with the blind and maimed with a record of "Just the Way You Look Tonight". This raises the question of who they are supposed

to be talking to. Stephen Lewis's Teddy, for instance, seems to be holding forth to a crowded bar; and there was much gratitude among Monday's audience for this onset of fun in a hitherto merciless evening. Also, Mr Lewis builds something of a moving from the ironic claim that he maintained a strict business relationship with his companions when everything he says shows that they were his whole life. But what audience does the bereaved Grace have in mind as she paces her suicide garret, glass in hand? Helen Mirren plays her as a woman possessed by an unbearable memory; periodically brightening up as she finds some temporary distraction, but always drawn back to the memory she cannot face, and relapsing into a sing-song litany of Welsh village names. You cannot fault the emotional transitions, but they leave you free to remember that it is Mr Friel, rather than the character, that is withholding the vital bit of information.

Frank is played by Patrick Magee, resuming the alliance with Christopher Pettes that began magnificently with *For Us, With Love*. Once again, the result is a performance that combines all Magee's baleful, black Irish authority with delicate highly disciplined phrasing

thrilling, though against them Manfred's theme on the strings had to struggle to be heard.

Segal is clearly an ardent devotee of the work, to judge from the intensity of his reading, and the care devoted to internal detail. The din of the welling organ, in the scene of Manfred's death, swamped the rest of the orchestra. Tchaikovsky ordered *Grand jeu*, perhaps thinking in terms of a harmonic, which he preferred to Balakirev's suggested organ.

It was a stirring performance, encouraging for the BSO's well-wishers. Before the interval, conductor and orchestra manfully supported and framed a grand, poetic zesty account of Chopin's E minor piano concerto by Emanuel Ax, whose insight and range of keyboard colour grow more and more impressive.

Bournemouth SO/Segal

Festival Hall

William Mann

The recently appointed principal conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Uri Segal, brought his new charges to London on Monday and boldly displayed their corporate achievement in Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony. It is notoriously difficult to execute and interpret both accurately and satisfactorily, but worth the challenge for its marvellous music.

Manfred used to be in the BSO repertoire during the early 1960s when their conductor was Silvestri, but he felt obliged to alter the scoring, and I doubt

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Britain must be able to continue an opponent that in the last resort an independent deterrent could be used where all else has failed.

It was not sensible to defer decisions on Trident any further.

They had had peace in Europe for more than 30 years and it would be a perilous step to jettison away one system of security which had worked for one which was untried.

The Government motion was carried.

Bulgarians may not be inhibited even at home of champions

Ipswich may sample watered wine

Iran quit World Cup

Tehran, March 3.—Iran have decided to withdraw from the World Cup, according to Pars, the Iranian news agency. The agency says the decision was made because of the attitude of Kuwait, who are in Iran's qualifying group, towards the Iranian revolution.

Forest's spirit of adventure revived by two young men

Blackpool appoint Brown to take over from Ball

1956 CUPP Qualifier-1956, 1956
 Standard Life, Colongne: St Eugene
 Ipswich Town, AZ ST. Alkmaar
 1957 17.131.
 SECOND DIVISION: Cardiff v Shef-
 field
 THIRD DIVISION: Blackpool v Mil-
 wall.
 FOURTH DIVISION: Bradford City
 Southend; Peterborough v Wimb-
 on
 SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION:
 Morton v Airdrie.

Macrae may join trail to America

His first division career is over after suffering the eighteenth fracture of his career. An X-ray examination confirmed that Smith had broken an arm for the second time this season in a Central League game at Monroeville, Pa.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Army
vs. 21 v Nordics (at Aldrichol,
12.30).

LONDON LEAGUE: Hawks v Oxford
University (1.15); London University
Ghosts (4.15).

OTHER MATCHES: Cambridge City
v Cambridge University (2.30); South-
ampton University v Reading (12.30).

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT: WRU
Nation Cup finals (at Vine Lane,
Lisbridge).

dozen caps and a hatful of tries



Loughborough introduce Lytollis for UAU final

Tennis

Miss Navratilova makes the shots that count

It is a first venture into tennis sponsorship for British Home Stores, who already have a £80,000 sponsorship commitment to aid women's rowing in Britain. Cumberland Club are to embark on a £20,000 facelift, including the installation of floodlights

h introduce AU final

Golf
No effort is
Sandwich C

From Lewine Mair
Vale do Lobo, March 3
With a back alze which fac
four successive birdies, I
Hutchinson. the former cap
the PGA, today handed in a
under par 66 to take the le
the end of the first day of t
holes Longshot pro-am here.
Second place is shared, o
by Christy O'Connor, Sar,
my 1981/11. OIC

Army bogged down and forced to beat retreat

Open a successful business

do Lobo 10 years ago, had
on a day when the next
score—from Brian Huggett—
78.

Garry Logan, who has won
of Longshots' 1981 pro-am
ed for first place in annual
well placed on 69. Who
arrived in Portugal on Jan.
Logan was suffering from the
pressures of having a £4,000

ged down and beat retreat

Collision could be costly for skiers

Doctor under order
Geraldine Barnville, the doctor and housewife who won the international sport last year, came out of retirement to represent Ireland in the European women's squash championships.

Amsterdam from March
Dorothy Armstrong (Ulster)
Irene Hewitt (Ulster) comp
team.

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ANGLO-DANISH TRADE

Investment

Recession adversely affects foreign interest

The present recession in Denmark is reflected in the slump in investments. In 1980 was 10 per cent less than in the previous year. Net investments in real terms was only about 40 per cent as high as in 1973-74.

According to Mr. Torben Nielsen, chief economist of Privatbanken, one of Denmark's three main banks, investment is now at the same level as it was in 1968, and thus adversely affecting Denmark's production capacity. Figures recently released by the Government's statistical bureau indicating that the number of bankruptcies in Denmark rose from 289 in 1979 to 1,355 last year tell their own sad tale.

According to statistics from Nationalbanken, the Danish central bank, total direct foreign investments in Denmark amounted to 1,180m kroner in 1979, while direct Danish investments abroad were 879m kroner. These figures reveal a steady decrease of foreign investments in Denmark—which are now the same as they were in 1970 after reaching a peak in 1976 at 1,667m kroner—while Danish investments abroad are gradually increasing.

The most important single item in the 1979 figures for Danish investments overseas (about 1,180m kroner) was accounted for by the expansion of Danish banks overseas, where new foreign branches—namely in Luxembourg, London and New York—have been burrowing in.

Foreign investment in Denmark, on the other hand, covers a wider range of activity, with the EEC topping the list (645m kroner, half of which came from West Germany alone), followed by Sweden (164m kroner) and the United States (125m kroner).

The EEC also dominates outward-going Danish investments (675m kroner, of which Britain's share accounted for almost half). The United States (216m kroner) was the second most important foreign country Denmark invested in in 1979. The most important direct foreign investments in Denmark in the coming years will be in North Sea oil and gas, and because of the constraints of Danish economic policy, export-oriented companies will be an important target for indirect investment.

Legislation going through the Folketing (parliament) and due to be passed by the

summer recess, will end the exclusive concession held by A. P. Møller, the Danish industrial and prospecting company, since 1962, opening 80 per cent of Denmark's offshore North Sea area to other prospectors. Although Møller, which exercises the concession through the so-called Danish Under-ground Consortium, in cooperation with Shell, Standard Oil and Texaco, will retain about 20 per cent of Denmark's North Sea business, there will be wide scope for new investment in the rest of the area (as well as in allied pipeline construction) from the beginning of next year.

According to the Ministry of Energy, about 20 companies—most of them foreign, and including Mobil, which already has important interests and experience in the British and Norwegian North Sea sectors—have so far shown interest in the new concessions to the Danish area.

Although representing investment on a much smaller scale, regional development aid is available to Danish as well as to foreign enterprises through the Regional Development Board, based in Silkeborg, near Aarhus, Jutland. There are five designated regional development areas in Denmark: North, South and West Jutland in the west of the country, Baltic islands of Lolland-Falster and Mon, and Bornholm in the east. In 1979 the Danish Regional Development Board granted aid, loans and guarantees worth 311m kroner to 155 companies, mainly in the iron, metal and machinery industries.

Not since 1977-78 has the board aided a foreign investor. Regional development shares, National bank figures show net equity sales to non-residents climbing to 326m kroner for the first nine months of last year—an increase of 35m kroner over the same period in 1979. Non-residents were first allowed to buy Danish shares when Denmark joined the EEC in 1973.

The increasing foreign interest in Danish shares



The Little Mermaid — a figurine by Royal Copenhagen Porcelain, one of Denmark's most important exporters.

comes mainly from large private and institutional investors in the United States, Switzerland and Britain. It has focused on a handful of internationally oriented Danish companies such as

Nova, the industrial and pharmaceutical company, the leading shipping and industrial companies East Asiatic and A. P. Møller, P. L. Smidth (cement), United Breweries (Carlsberg and Tuborg), the Danish Spirit Factories (which produce Danish Aalborg Snaps and other liquors), the Danish Sugar Factories, Sophus Behrendsen (engineering and chemical products), Superfos (fertilizers) and some insurance companies. The marked increase in non-resident equity demand has been caused by well-managed marketing campaigns abroad by the most sought-after businesses.

Foreign investment moved over into shares after the Danish Government banned foreign purchases of state bonds in 1975. Non-resident demand did not subsequently switch to private sector debentures, probably because the Danish bond market differs markedly from its counterparts in other Western European countries.

Christopher Follett

Agriculture

Long, slim pig—fat market

The saying that everything on a Danish pig is canned except the grunt was valid for many years but these days a lot of various meat products have a smoked finish, are exported in refrigerated containers or are produced and packed for deep-frozen transport.

Denmark is the world's largest exporter of pig meat, and this group of products is its most important export, 47.2 per cent of which went to Britain in 1980. The value of pig meat exports in 1980 was 11,100m kroner. Seventy per cent of bacon imported to Britain is Danish and 40 per cent of all bacon consumed in Britain comes from Denmark.

Forty per cent of the total agricultural export goes to Britain and about 80 per cent of the bacon produced in Denmark is exported, England being the principal market, although pig meat products are sold to more than 140 countries throughout the world.

During 1980, 14,100,000 pigs were slaughtered in Denmark on 96,000 farms, which employ about 100,000 people. In addition, about 14,000 people are employed in bacon factories, canneries, meat factories, casing plants and lard refineries.

During the past 80 years the farmers have worked at breeding a pig which met with the consumers' taste. The result is the long, slim pig which is incessantly being improved through close cooperation between farms, bacon factories and research workers.

Forty per cent of the pigs received by export factories are cured for bacon but other cuts of the meat are exported as well, together with beef, veal, and more variously processed. The Danes realize the crucial importance of the British market and in 1977 the Danish Bacon Factories' Export Association, EES-Food, which administers the export of bacon, set up its own organization in Britain, EES-Food (United Kingdom), to coordinate British activities more closely.

Although pig meat is the most important item of agricultural export, beef and veal play an important role. The Danish Livestock and Meat Board says that the export of beef and veal to Britain during the first 11 months of 1980 had a value of 88.8m kroner. But it is not only meat that represents an important role among Denmark's agricultural exports. This dairy products are important as well. The principal dairy items are butter, cheese and, lately, sour products such as yogurt and junket, which have been received favourably by the British consumers. On the subject of dairy exports to Britain, Mr. Hanning Mortensen of the Danish Dairy Federation says: "England is the biggest market for our products and during recent years there has been a remarkable increase in the export of cheese and, last year, of yogurt and junket. In 1980 the total dairy export was 5,500m kroner, of which exports to Britain

counted for 1,330m kroner. The butter export was 946m kroner, cheese about 367m kroner, and tinned and condensed milk and milk powder, together with yogurt and junket, amounted to 17m kroner.

"We might have exported cheese, butter and milk for another 1,000m kroner if we had had to say no to orders from Britain as well as other countries because of shortage of milk. This is due to the economic situation in Denmark where the farmers do not invest because of the high level of interest and because of the 1979 law which levied an extra tax on the size value of farmland."

In international circles, unfortunately, Denmark is used as an example of how a thriving agricultural sector can be ruined within a very short time. In 1976-77 the Government said that the animal production should increase by 3 per cent annually. But because of the 1979 law, at least within the dairy sector, production is at present falling by more than 3 per cent annually.

During 1980 Denmark's total export was 97,400m kroner, which is an increase of 20 per cent compared to 1979. The total export to Britain during 1980 was about 27,500m kroner, compared with some 24,300m kroner in 1979 and agricultural exports to Britain during 1980 were about 6,700m kroner, compared to about 6,600m kroner the previous year.

Total Danish agricultural exports in 1980 were 25,500m kroner, an increase of 12 per cent compared to 1979. In one sector exports to Britain have fallen and this is poultry, the reason being that the Danes have found better markets such as West Germany, Egypt and the Soviet Union. Poultry exports to Britain fell from 5,887 tons in 1979 to 1,431 tons in 1980.

Even though about 78 per cent of the country's area of roughly 43,000 square km is under cultivation, the number of people directly involved with agriculture has fallen since 1950, from 21 per cent to about 7 per cent of the population of 5,100,000.

It has been said that Denmark lacks natural resources but it has soil, apart from some lime, salt, lignite as well as gas and oil in the North Sea. But soil is the raw material the Danes have cultivated diligently for centuries.

Danish farming is predominantly formed by fairly small family owned holdings. The 122,000 farms average in size 24 hectares (59 acres) and only every seventh farm has full-time paid employees.

Denmark and New Zealand are the only two countries in the world to export two thirds of their agricultural production and in Denmark this sector provides the country with about 32 per cent of the foreign currency earnings.

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Commerce

Partnership pattern has changed since entry into EEC

Denmark and Britain are traditionally good trading partners. Bilateral political relations—barring clashes of interest over agriculture and fisheries, both of which must be seen in the larger context of the European Community—are likewise generally positive.

According to British Department of Trade figures, trade between the two countries is at present almost in balance, with British exports to Denmark in 1980 amounting to £1,032m (compared with £1,016m in 1979) and Danish exports to the United Kingdom £1,040m for last year, marginally up on the total for 1979.

While Britain remains by far the biggest export market for Danish agricultural products, the trading pattern between the two countries has changed distinctly since they both entered the European Community in 1973. Whereas Britain was indisputably Denmark's biggest export market in the days of EFTA, EEC membership has led to a dramatic blossoming in Danish trade with West Germany, which is now Denmark's top export market, with Britain second.

As regards industrial exports alone, Britain now lies third in importance. Seen from the British side, Denmark is no longer one of the top 10 export markets, having fallen to twelfth place.

On the other hand, the United Kingdom absorbs 15 per cent (and rising) of total Danish exports. Were the British suddenly to stop exporting goods delivery and packaging, are also to some extent behind the sluggishness of traditional British exports such as machine

tools and manufactured goods to Denmark. Despite its economic problems, Denmark, which enjoys a GDP per capita twice that

of Britain, is a rich market for the United Kingdom and one that is confidently expected to expand in the coming years. Similarly the

British recession has failed to daunt the Danes' expectation of increased exports.

C.F.

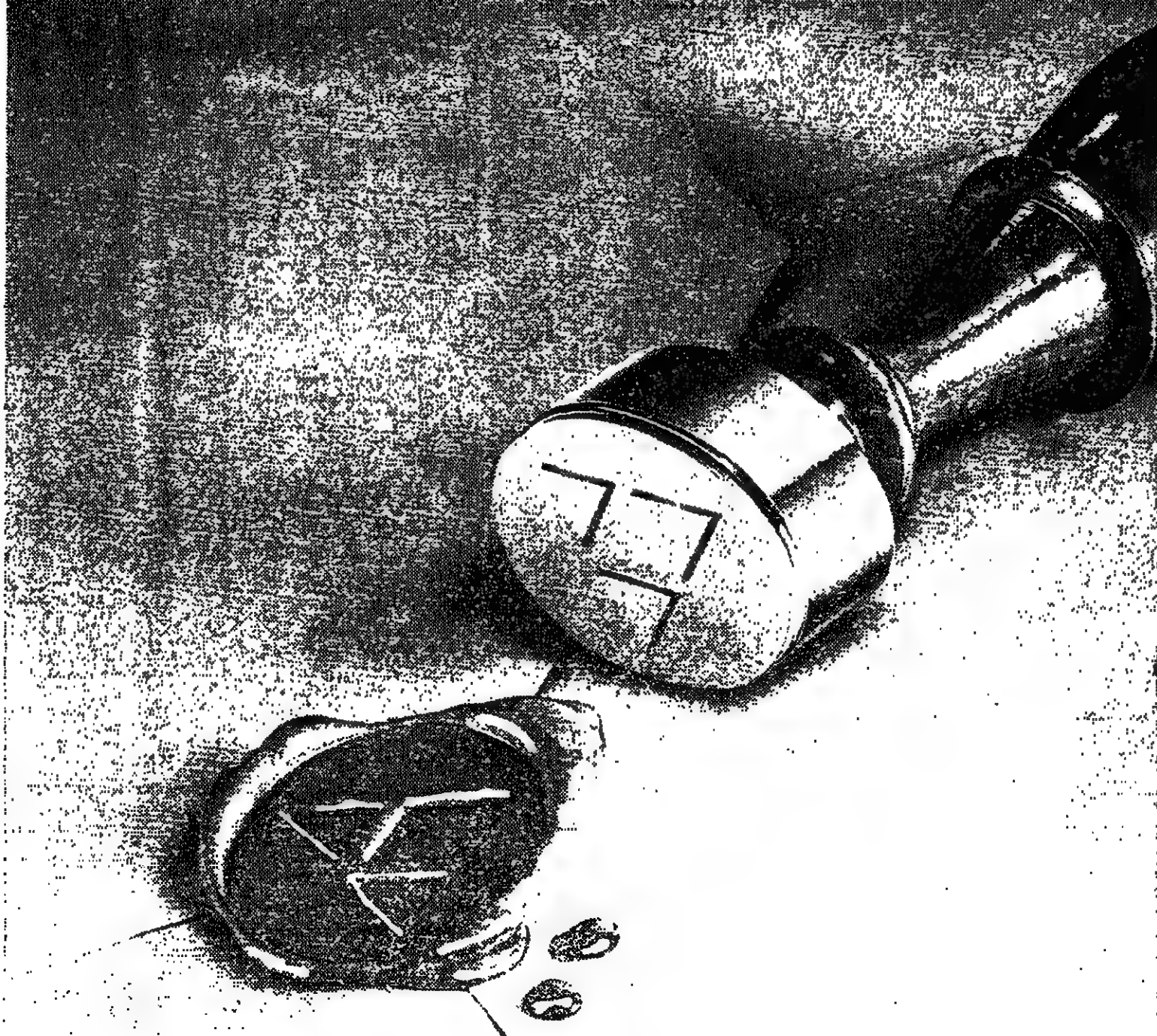
Danish exports to UK (£m)

	1979	1980	% change
Food and live animals	572.4	586.6	+ 2.5
including:			
meat	(370.4)	(388.7)	- 0.5
dairy products	(104.7)	(108.8)	+ 3.9
fish	(41.4)	(49.1)	-18.6
feeding stuffs for animals	(17.9)	(23.2)	-29.6
sugar	(15.9)	(18.0)	+ 6.3
Machinery and transport equipment	182.2	177.8	- 2.4
including:			
general industrial machinery	(55.5)	(50.8)	- 8.5
electrical machinery	(27.1)	(26.3)	- 2.9
specialized machinery	(26.5)	(25.9)	- 2.2
Manufactured goods	104.8	106.6	+ 1.7
including:			
textile yarns and fabrics	(31.1)	(31.0)	- 0.3
Chemicals and related products	50.7	48.4	- 4.5
Crude materials (except fuels)	42.5	44.4	+ 4.5
Petroleum	30.7	32.7	+ 6.5
All other goods	97.7	106.5	+ 9.0
Total	1,081.0	1,104.0	+ 2.1

Danish imports from UK (£m)

	1979	1980	% change
Petroleum	370.4	403.1	+ 8.8
Machinery and transport equipment	236.6	228.1	- 3.6
including:			
road vehicles	(56.6)	(40.0)	-29.3
specialized machinery	(56.6)	(34.8)	-38.5
general industrial machinery	(32.1)	(34.8)	+ 8.4
electrical machinery	(25.3)	(32.5)	+28.4
office and data processing machinery	(26.8)	(30.7)	+14.5
power generating machinery	(18.2)	(19.4)	+ 6.6
Manufactured goods	152.3	134.8	-11.5
including:			
textile yarns and fabrics	(43.7)	(38.0)	-12.8
iron and steel	(37.2)	(23.5)	-36.8
Chemicals and related products	83.5	86.9	+ 4.1
Food and live animals	25.1	30.3	+ 20.3
Clothing and accessories	29.6	22.8	-23.0
All other goods	117.5	126.0	+ 7.2
Total	1,016.0	1,032.0	+ 1.6

Source: Overseas trade statistics, UK.



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Phone 451-15000, Telex 27000, Telegrams DENDANSKE

Dear readers,



As Lord Mayor of Aarhus and in my capacity of Chairman of the Port of Aarhus I shall with pleasure give you some facts about our continental capital of Denmark, the second city. Aarhus is situated on the E3—midway between

the German border and Skagen. To the North, West and South, it verges on some of Denmark's most favoured holiday country.

To the East it lies open to the fresh blue waters of the Bay. With its 250,000 inhabitants it is the second largest city in the country. It is an active city with many large industries and commercial enterprises and a busy port. Aarhus University, the School of Commerce and other institutions of further education have helped to shape the city's cultural life. Aarhus offers its visitors a wide choice in the way of theatre, concerts, galleries and museums.

Regarding our harbour, I am pleased to say that it grows—keeping pace with developments, moving with the times. The new Eastern Harbour Division accentuates the importance of the Port of Aarhus as a central harbour.

The Container Terminal in the Northern Harbour Division has an annual turnover of about 100,000 20-foot units.

Extensions of 11 hectare are being prepared. Handling will be improved by means of a new container crane (No. 3).

Don't forget the daily direct SAS-flight Gatwick-Tirstrup (except Saturday). By plane, by train, by car, by ship or horse—by all means Welcome to Aarhus

Yours sincerely



ORLA S. HILLESTED
LORD MAYOR

Annelise Hopson

Books for Lent

Leader of the loyal opposition

A Passion for Truth

Hans Kung: a biography
By Robert Nowell
(Collins, £9.95)

There are striking resemblances between Hans Kung and Karl Wojtyla. Both hail from devoutly Catholic rural communities, the one Swiss, the other Polish. Both are fair haired, broad faced, chunky, athletic men with a passion for physical fitness, keen swimmers, vigorous skiers. Both are exceptionally gifted linguists, intellectuals with wide cultural interests, and possessing an enviable knack of communicating their religious ideas to audiences of all descriptions. Both are writers and academics. But Wojtyla is now Pope, and Kung the leader of His Holiness's loyal opposition.

There is another resemblance which makes their relative positions in the Catholic firmament even more curious. It is the fact that each is deeply conscious of being a priest, called to preach the gospel to every creature. They are first and foremost pastoral men with a passionate desire to demonstrate how faith in God is the key to fullness of humanity, and to present the noblest possible vision of Christian life. Both set out with no greater ambition than to be simple parish priests, and were drawn almost accidentally on to a wider stage, the one as Pontiff, the other as the Church's most celebrated international theologian.

After reading this excellent study by Robert Nowell, himself an able theologian and former editor of the Catholic periodical *Herder Correspondence*, it seems not entirely fantastical to suggest that if the two men's birthplaces had been reversed so too might have been their present roles. It is not so much a biography as a theological boxing commentary with round by round descriptions of the dispute over his orthodoxy between Kung and the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, culminating last year in the withdrawal of his licence



"Grande Pitié" by Jean Malouel from Monasteries of Western Europe by Wolfgang Braunfels (Thames & Hudson, £7.50).

as an accredited Catholic theologian. Kung's voluminous publications are brilliantly summarized, the controversial issues neatly analysed, and the climate of intellectual life within the Church both before and after the Second Vatican Council accurately depicted.

The Pope's experience as a churchman struggling to preserve religious faith and the institutional church in an atheistic authoritarian State clearly accounts for the stress he places on the conservative and hierarchical elements in Church doctrine and order. In contrast, Kung grew up in a country not only politically democratic but where bishops and priests are traditionally chosen by their people. His inherited respect for personal freedom and personal responsibility, and for the involvement of the whole community

in decision-making, have been reinforced not only by the freer political atmosphere and intellectual atmosphere of western Europe, but by his experience of a church crippled less by outside oppression than by its own internal weaknesses; surely suspicion of secular ideas and theological development, a divorce of doctrine from life, an image of frowning austerity, and, not least, an incapacity to re-state the message of the gospel in fresh language and images intelligible to twentieth century man. To a great extent the Second Vatican Council confirmed this diagnosis, though it did not result in all the remedies he has proposed and still proposes.

Kung is a serious scholar, highly respected even by theologians who find themselves at odds with his views. He is also

from its essential indefectibility; that there is no sharp division between the life of nature and the life of grace; that every statement of doctrine and every practical expression of doctrine is culturally conditioned and therefore implies an element of relativity. Above all he has insisted that the Christian faith is robust enough to pursue the truth wherever it leads, and that to confess mistakes is better than to save face.

He has in addition (taxed Roman officialdom with doctrinal immobility, an obsession with institutional prestige, and habitual reduction of the great commandments to pettifoggery, and sometimes cruel, legalism. These sharp attacks on the Roman bureaucracy may have more to do with the censure passed on him than any adventurous doctrine; unpalatable views are more easily tolerated by authorities, whether political or ecclesiastical, than cheek. But even those who are inspired by his work, and believe that his targets are well chosen, may sometimes wonder whether Kung does not unwittingly inflate the importance of Rome by harping on its defects. There is a much richer Catholic life than the Vatican represents. Rome has always been the tail-light of theological movements, pastoral developments and spiritual changes which have already well down the road. There are a myriad of delicate relationships between Catholics apart from the rarely advertised relationship with Rome. And though intellectual integrity is a Christian duty, there are other kinds of experience, including the mystical, through which God tutors the faithful.

If the Catholic Church depended on a clean, well-lighted Rome it would have crumbled to dust. As this book reveals, there is no doubt about Kung's bravery, honesty and insight. But perhaps he chokes too easily on the language of church officials, and under-estimates the momentum of the ordinary Catholic whose faith he so frequently hypes. After all he himself is living proof that the faithful can recognize the spirit in good works, whether or not they carry a *Nihil Obstat*.

John Harriott

The old religion

Christian England
Its Story to the Reformation
By David L. Edwards
(Collins, £7.95)

In St George's Chapel, Windsor, the dean sits in the Sovereign's stall. When the Sovereign is present the dean has his place in the sanctuary. This peaceful co-existence was interrupted only once, in the eighteenth century, when the king and the dean fought for a seat. Oh, to have witnessed that paradigm of church and state, that untimely challenge to Royal supremacy! The battle for the chief seats had been lost by the church some 300 years earlier. The Reformation is still a wound in English Christianity, and a scar in national life. A Roman Catholic writer described it as "The Fort is betrayed". David Edwards neatly explains that the betrayed castle became the Englishman's home, and shows that the way to understand the Reformation is not through the distorting lens of hindsight but by taking the long view to observe the interdependence of church and state through 13 centuries. Romantic pictures of medieval piety are not enough.

This book describes the growth of two institutions, one of temporal, the other of spiritual power: each learning how to accommodate the other and the individual without destroying the corporate body. The Christianity which came first with the culture of Imperial Rome was succeeded by the piety of the Celtic church, strongest in the North. When Pope Gregory sent his missionary, Augustine, to Kent, Christianity had not died out. But, as David Edwards relates,

for all the attractiveness of the humble and holy men associated with Lindisfarne, they lacked something: authority to teach a creed, to organize an institution, to command. When the English church was united, the union came around the authority of St Peter and his successors in the Bishopric of Rome.

The Norman conquest firmly established the church as the junior partner in government. English until the position changed with the death of Thomas Becket. His martyrdom was successful because, a century earlier, St Anselm had been able to explain men's redemption by creating a spiritual feudal system: a theological device to free the church from temporal interference enabled the church to establish temporal privilege. Three hundred and fifty years after Becket's death carloads of treasure were taken from his tomb at Canterbury to enrich the Royal coffers.

But medieval churches are not regarded today as monuments to a failed political party. Dean Edwards reserves his special affection, not for the political fixings of the church but for its spiritual and artistic achievements. From the beginning, to become a Christian meant to cease to be "barbarian". Bede and Beowulf, Dame Julian and Geoffrey Chaucer, Piers Plowman and Thomas More all contributed to civilization, and their contribution is given due place. The praise of architecture is worthy of one who has served in King's College, Westminster Abbey and now Norwich Cathedral.

Those who, forgetting the bloodshed, yearn for the beauty of the past will sympathize with the pagan Anglo-Saxons who jeered at drowning monks. Nobody shall pray for them! May God save none of them! For they have robbed us of the old religion and nobody knows how to cope with all these changes!

Robert Foxcroft

Transplantation and recultivation

Christianity in the Southern Hemisphere
The Churches in Latin America and South Africa
By Edward Norman
(Oxford £12.50)

The objective of the 1978 Reith Lectures, Edward Norman, in his more recent Birkbeck and Pridaau Lectures, which form the basis of his book, was ambitious: to examine "the relationship between the ecclesiastical and the political and social histories of two apparently quite different areas of the world—Latin America and Southern Africa... looked at as enormous and complicated examples of what happens to European religious institutions when transplanted and recultivated in unfamiliar circumstances, and in contact with peoples of alien indigenous

cultures". Dr Norman reminds us in his preface that there has been surprisingly little ecclesiastical history in both areas. "Some Latin American countries are without a single account of the Catholic Church... In South Africa there are a few denominational histories. Later, Dr Norman records that in 1970 there were 3,000 separate churches and sects in South Africa (which doesn't exactly assist the writing of the past will sympathize with the pagan Anglo-Saxons who jeered at drowning monks. Nobody shall pray for them! May God save none of them! For they have robbed us of the old religion and nobody knows how to cope with all these changes!

Faced with such "enormous and complicated examples", with "surprisingly little ecclesiastical history in both areas", many would say it would be foolhardy for Dr Norman to attempt to reach his objective—in 200 pages: that

comparative analysis should wait upon that fuller historical research and writing that Dr Norman implies must yet be undertaken. However, Dr Norman is himself clearly a much-travelled man and includes over 250 books in his 12-page bibliography; and undoubtedly his study takes his readers into important aspects of contemporary religion and society and exposes some of the questions which will not wait upon more adequate research, even if the fruits of comparison are few.

In so brief a study of so vast a canvas, personal opinion—on which so much more might be said—needs to be frequent. One quotation from the Latin American section will serve to illustrate: "Nothing so criticises the class and cultural corruption of the contemporary progressive, urban

thought of the Catholic leadership from the values of Catholic folk religion than the Bishop of Curacao's opposition, in 1969 to the construction of a new basilica at Guadalupe on the grounds that the money would have been better spent on social projects. Pope John Paul II was rather more sensitive to the values of popular religion when he visited Mexico for the Puebla Conference of Latin American bishops in January, 1979. Calling the Mexicans "the people of God", he placed them under the protection of the Virgin of Guadalupe—at whose shrine he made his own devotion. The cultural tenacity of Religiosidad Popular has almost perfectly served the religious needs of a rural society already noted for its submission to existing conditions—for its lack of aspiration, at least until very recent times, to social improvement.

Dr Norman divides his study into sections on "Church and State", "Frontier Religion and Secularism", and "Christian

From holy lives
Holiness
By Donald Nicholl
(Darton, Longman & Todd, £3.95)

The last few years have seen a spate of books on spirituality and holiness, and this work by the Professor of History and Religious Studies at Santa Cruz, California, is an eminently practical addition to the flood. That should not be a comfortable thought. A recent survey by a group of editors of religious journals found not only that their readership was drawn almost entirely from the upper income bracket, but that though they had a marked desire for articles about spirituality, mysticism and holiness, they had no interest in articles about social justice. As one might expect from a book arising out of the monthly conferences he has given to the Poor Clares since 1974, while Donald Nicholl draws richly on a spectrum of spirituality ranging far outside the Christian tradition to the religions of the East, he makes few concessions to those who like their holiness untainted by the world.

Locating the heart of holiness ultimately in the joy of self-sacrifice, Mr Nicholl helps us first to find the starting-point for such a journey into true humanity. Believing that one truly holy person is worth more than any number of books, he stocks his work with a wealth of illustrations drawn from those holy lives which illuminate each generation. Perhaps inevitably Mother Theresa, with whom he has worked, dominates the book not through the infrequent mention of her name, but as a contemporary model

Nicholas Coulton

Law Report March 3 1981

No tax relief in respect of polygamous wife

Nabi v Heaton (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment delivered February 27]

For income tax purposes a man may only have one wife and can only claim personal relief for her if she either lives with him or is maintained by him. Section 8 (1) of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act, 1970, does not entitle a claimant to relief for a polygamous wife maintained by him even if English law should recognize the second marriage contracted under Modern law as valid.

His Lordship so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr Ghulam Nabi from a decision of general commissioners in Bolton refusing him the relief.

Mr Nabi came to the United Kingdom from Pakistan in 1965, and three years later married Amir under English law. The marriage failed, and they separated in 1970. He then married Suria, a Pakistani, whose marriage to him was solemnized in a Muslim ceremony. He then returned to the United Kingdom and maintained Suria in his home in London from 1971 to 1975. For the purposes of the proceedings the parties agreed that Mr Nabi was domiciled in Pakistan at the time of his marriage to Suria.

He appealed against assessments to Schedule E income tax for 1970-71 claiming entitlement to personal relief in respect of Suria. The commissioners held that his second marriage was not valid according to English law and dismissed the appeal.

Section 8 provides a claimant with the relief "if he proves—(i) that for the year of assessment he has a wife living with him, or (ii) that his wife is wholly maintained by him during the year of assessment, and that he is not

entitled in computing the amount of his income for that year to deduct in respect of the sum paid for the maintenance of his wife."

Mr T. W. Shock for Mr Nabi submitted that the relief was available to a number of cases that established that a potentially polygamous marriage might now be regarded as valid under English law. In particular he relied on *Imam Din v. National Assistance Board* (1967) 2 QB 333, where a wife under a polygamous marriage was held to be the appellant's "wife" within the meaning of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Lord Justice Vinelott, in so deciding said: "When a question arises of recognizing a foreign marriage or of construing the word 'wife' in a statute, everything depends upon the nature of the question. The marriage is to be recognized and upon the objects of the statute. I ask myself first of all: is there any good reason why the appellant's wife and children should not be recognized as his wife and children for the purpose of the National Assistance Act, 1948? I can find no such reason, and every reason in common sense and justice why they should be so recognized."

Mr Shock submitted that since the war the courts and the legislature had moved a long way towards recognizing polygamous marriages as valid. There was no reason of policy to prevent the court from recognizing the validity of a potentially or actually polygamous marriage for the purposes of section 8. Even if a man was treated for tax purposes as married to two women he could only claim relief for one, and then only if he was living with or maintaining one of them.

Misuse of Class F land charge

Barnett v Hassett
Before Mr Justice Wood
[Judgment delivered March 21]

It was a misuse of the Matrimonial Homes Act, 1967, for a husband who had no intention of occupying the matrimonial home to register a Class F charge on the property in order to enable him to freeze the assets of the former wife in the event of a claim against her. Mr Justice Wood said in the Family Division when he showed an application by the husband to register a Class F charge on a house owned by her at Golders Green, London.

Mr Philip Vallance for the wife, Mr Phillips Price for the husband.

His Lordship, who gave judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers, said that he had decided the case on affidavit evidence as it was urgent. The parties had agreed that the husband had been previously married in 1967, contracts had been exchanged between the husband and the owners of a property in Barnet for its sale to him for £410,000. The husband paid a deposit of £41,000 and the Matrimonial Homes Act, 1967, was then the parties would live there when married.

The wife owned the Golders Green property as a result of the husband's decision ordered in October, 1979, at the end of her first marriage. The husband moved in during March, 1980. His wife had said she would pay £60,000 towards the purchase of the Barnet property, but she had not done so. By May, 1980, the husband informed her vendors that he could not complete and forfeited his deposit. He had spent £80,000 on surveys and fees. The husband had then far back in matters of minute particular, and the slikeness of the husband's habit binds us to the earth as firmly as any iron chain can only be broken by the sword of the law. The husband's conduct was a misuse of the Matrimonial Homes Act, 1967, and the court should refuse to register the charge.

each side intended to petition for judicial separation on the ground of unreasonable behaviour. The husband's conduct was a misuse of the Matrimonial Homes Act, 1967, for a husband who had no intention of occupying the matrimonial home to register a Class F charge on the property in order to enable him to freeze the assets of the former wife in the event of a claim against her. Mr Justice Wood said in the Family Division when he showed an application by the husband to register a Class F charge on a house owned by her at Golders Green, London.

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Rating surcharge priority
Westminster City Council v. Haymarket Publishing Ltd.
The Court of Appeal said that the rating surcharge on unused commercial property by section 17A of the General Rate Act, 1967, was imposed on the owner of the property, which was defined by the statute as a person entitled to possession, and did not include a mortgagee unless he had entered into possession; but the charge was by virtue of section 17B(3), to be a "charge on the land", and, accordingly, was a charge on all the interests in the land, and not just priority over a mortgage.

Their Lordships dismissed an appeal by the defendants, Haymarket Publishing Ltd., from a decision of Mr Justice Dillon granting the plaintiffs, Westminster City Council, a declaration that their charge for £16,540 by way of rating surcharge on property at Lancaster Gate, London, had priority over the defendants' charge for the property. The defendants had acquired their interest from the mortgagees, National Westminster Bank Ltd.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the question was who

was liable to pay; who was the owner of the property at the time of the charge; and who was entitled to possession? It was quite clear that until a mortgagee entered into possession and took the rents and profits, the mortgagee was entitled to possession, and was liable to pay the surcharge.

Section 17B of the Act protected a spouse who had rights to remain in the matrimonial home. It did not protect a spouse who had proprietary, contractual or statutory rights of occupation. If the mortgagee had not had the right to enter and occupy with the leave of the court, the

whole emphasis of the Act was to create and protect the right to occupy of the spouse in occupation.

It was abundantly clear that the husband did not intend to occupy the matrimonial home. He was therefore entitled to ask the court to freeze the assets of the former wife in the event of a claim against her. Mr Justice Wood said in the Family Division when he showed an application by the husband to register a Class F charge on a house owned by her at Golders Green, London.

Mr Philip Vallance for the wife, Mr Phillips Price for the husband.

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Second complaint vexatious
Acrow (Engineers) Ltd v. Rathway
An originating application claiming compensation for unfair dismissal made within the statutory time limit, but a previous complaint on the same facts had been withdrawn and dismissed by an industrial tribunal was not a bar to the making of a new complaint within the meaning of rule 11 of the Industrial Tribunal Rules, 1974, and could not be struck out. Mr Justice Brown-Wilkinson in the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

The court allowed an appeal by the employer, Acrow (Engineers) Ltd, from a decision of a Central Industrial Tribunal, last August rejecting the employers' application to strike out an unfair dismissal claim made by an employee, Mr Michael Rathway.

MR JUSTICE BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the employee had withdrawn his first complaint of unfair dismissal before it was due to be heard because he was too unwell to represent himself and professional help was not available. The industrial tribunal had dismissed his complaint, but later he made a further application on the same grounds. That procedure was vexatious within the meaning of rule 11 of the industrial tribunal rules. It was not a bar to the making of a new complaint within the meaning of rule 11 of the industrial tribunal rules. It was not a bar to the making of a new complaint within the meaning of rule 11 of the industrial tribunal rules. It was not a bar to the making of a new complaint within the meaning of rule 11 of the industrial tribunal rules.

Shopkeeper to fight law on metrication
A shopkeeper who was fined £20 by Eastbourne magistrates yesterday for contravening the Weights and Measures Act by selling vegetables, fruit and nuts in avoirdupois instead of metric weights said yesterday he would go to prison to fight metrication.

Derek Howell, who runs a chain of health food shops in Sussex and Kent, was given 14 days to pay and was ordered to pay costs of £100 if he failed to do so. He was given the option of a 12-month discharge imposed by magistrates last December for five similar offences.

The prosecution against his two stores in Terminus Road, Eastbourne, was brought by East Sussex County Council's trading standards department.

Mr Howell claimed that metrication made things confusing for customers who were used to pounds and ounces.

"Metrication is a nonsense now because the Government have abolished the metrication board. I sell all my goods in Imperial weights, with the metric equivalent printed clearly alongside. If a recipe stated four grams of almonds, I would know what it meant."

Eric James

Jury is told of man who never came to dinner
John Wallace murdered his young assistant's husband after working together on the television programme, *It's a Knock-Out*, it was alleged today.

Mr Wallace, information officer for the District Council, knocked Jane Lewis' husband unconscious and then dumped his body in the river Arun, Mr Daniel Hollis, QC, told a Lewes Crown Court jury.

He committed the murder on the day after the couple's first wedding anniversary, and possibly got rid of the body during a dinner party he had organized for Mrs Lewis, the jury was told.

Mr Wallace, aged 37, of Dellaway Road, Arundel, Sussex, denies murdering Mr Lewis, aged 29, a Brighton antiques dealer, on August 5, last year.

Mr Hollis said that Mr Wallace had been in love with Mrs Lewis, aged 29, "On the very day of a surprise dinner party he had arranged in her honour, he attacked him (Mr Lewis) in such a way that his skull was fractured."

The body was put in the boot of a car lent to Mr Wallace for the television programme, it was alleged. He probably

thought he had killed Mr Lewis, but he was still alive when he was put into a river, where he died from drowning.

"It was the case of the man who never came to dinner and the case of the man who left the dinner party in order to dispose of his victim."

Mr Hollis said that Mr Wallace, a married man, and Mrs Lewis helped to organize the programme, *It's a Knock-Out*, at Arundel last July. Mr Wallace developed an emotional attachment for her.

When Mr Wallace arrived at the dinner party he said Mr Lewis would be late. He left, saying he felt sick, and it was alleged that he could have then looked for a place to dump the body.

Mrs Lewis made several telephone calls during the dinner, then reported her husband missing.

The trial, which is expected to last three weeks, continues today.

18 crashes in fog
Thick fog caused 18 accidents involving 30 vehicles on the London-bound carriageway of the M2 between the Gillingham and Chatham intersections in Kent yesterday.

The economy

Deepest depression since the 1930s —but not all is gloom

In Denmark there are no seditions, mutinies, or rebellions against the government, but all the people are, or appear to be, lovers of their king, notwithstanding their ill-treatment, and the hardships they grow under. I suppose one principal reason of this is the equality of the taxes and the manner of levying them, not to be unequal by those that see it not, what a canny fact it is to the subjects to be ill-used like this.

Robert M. Jones, English envoy to Copenhagen, 1694. The Danish economy is experiencing its deepest depression since the 1930s. Not all is gloom, however. In the country still enjoying the highest material standard of living in the European Economic Community, the trade deficit fell in 1980 to 14,600m kroner (295m) from 19,000m kroner (375m) in 1979.

Thanks to a 22 per cent improvement in exports bolstered by an increase in imports of only about 12 per cent, the holding down

Handling commerce

Embassy's dual role

There is no Anglo-Danish staff, and sometimes to telephone and other equipment. There is a small exhibition hall.

What officials describe as a small fee is charged for the use of these rooms. On the other hand, grants can sometimes be made from Danish Trade Fund towards expenses in taking part in trade fairs and other joint presentations.

Although the emphasis is on importing, a commercial library is open to businessmen of both countries interested in taking part in trade. An information letter is sent out regularly.

A Danish Club has flourished in London for well over 100 years. It is now in Knightsbridge, with 700 members in Britain and 200 in Denmark. Membership is open to Scandinavians, and other nationals with special interest in Denmark can become associate members.

Patrick O'Leary

Helping the salesman

BIU to the rescue

A Danish businessman reads in the press that a British firm is about to launch a packer radio-telephone on the market and he wants the sales agency in Denmark. He has not done any business with Britain before, so how does he cope? He contacts the British Import Union (BIU), which will help him with the British contacts and practical matters.

For more than a century BIU in Copenhagen has worked for the greatest possible cooperation between Denmark and the United Kingdom. The union's stated objective is to pursue that aim on the basis of the strong historical, cultural and economic ties between the two countries. Yet the name of the union implies that its object is merely to promote imports from Britain. This was the union's intention but the union's

ordinances were changed when the present chairman of the board, Mr Steen Langebæk, was appointed four years ago.

Asked why the change was made, Mr Langebæk says: "It is not merely the economy we look at, since co-operation involves many things—cultural exchanges for example—and in the future we are going to concentrate more on that. We feel that the Danes have a positive attitude to the British way of life and we have to be careful to preserve this attitude since the influence from the Continent is increasing."

When BIU was formed in the 1930s it helped to amend some of the Danish laws so as to abolish trade restrictions. It maintains close contact with the British embassy in Copenhagen and the Danish embassy in London, as well as with the Anglo-Danish Society in both

Christopher Follett

The butter market

Declining exports to Britain a problem

Mr Jens Majaard might be described as the king of the Danish butter mountain. A fluent and effusive Eurocrat, he is the managing director of Butterdane, the country's cooperative export marketing organization which has its headquarters in Aarhus, Jutland. With butter consumption in Britain, Denmark's largest customer, declining, Mr Majaard will have his work cut out in the next 12 months not only to stabilize the position but to improve overall sales in the face of competition from New Zealand—and from margarine.



Mr Jens Majaard, managing director of Butterdane: king of the Danish butter mountain.

Last year butter consumption in Britain was about 380,000 tonnes, which was about 12 per cent less than in the previous year. According to one survey of EEC countries Britain's per capita consumption of butter has fallen steadily from 8.8 kg in 1963 to an estimated 5.3 kg last year, while during that period the consumption of margarine has gone up in roughly the same proportions. Denmark has the second largest share of the British butter market, with 10.9 per cent, after New Zealand which has by far the largest share with 26.1 per cent apart from British butter makers, who hold 29.5 per cent.

According to Mr Majaard there were several factors responsible for the decline in Britain's consumption: the general recession, higher prices compared with those of margarine, and adverse publicity resulting from the health issues.

"But there will be an increase in sales to Britain during 1981 and 1982", Mr Majaard predicted. He said that the decline in consumption would definitely halt. He described the health issue as "a bluff", said that it was over in West Germany where sales were picking up, and implied that the same would happen in Britain. Butterdane hopes that it will take 13.5 per cent of the market share—the highest for five years—which would be equivalent to 40,000 tonnes of Lurpak and Danesca packets.

Last year sales to Britain were about 37,000 tonnes of packet butter, 5,500 tonnes less than in 1979. This was

Michael Frenchman

Industrial locations

Just a sea of islands

Denmark is really a sea of islands with only one part, Jutland, connected to the mainland of Europe. Apart from Copenhagen, on the island of Zealand, capital and industrial centre of the country, its other three major towns, Aarhus, Aalborg, and Esbjerg, are all in Jutland which stretches northwards from Germany tapering to a spit of sand at the Skagerrak sticking out into the channel between Denmark and Sweden.

The spit of sand, Grenen, literally means "twigs" when translated into English. And this is all it really seems to be as it almost bends and moves as the fierce winds and currents of the Skagerrak pour across a spit.

Aarhus, more than a thousand years old was a Viking settlement once and today is a major port with about 250,000 inhabitants. The harbour is being enlarged with an extended container handling facility. There are more than 200 medium and large industrial companies here because of the general economic situation in Denmark industrial development and business is not too good at present.

"In fact we are stagnating. There is too much raininess about the future from an industrial point of view", said Mr Erik Skou, manager of the Danish Provincial Chamber of Commerce in Aarhus. "We are waiting for the Government to do something. We must have lower rents. True, we have had some stability with wage levels, and there is a little more optimism today than there was recently."

Mr Skou thought that some of the larger companies were not facing the same problems as the smaller ones, those with less than 200 employees. Many of the latter had developed good technical knowledge and manufacturing skills which they were unable to capitalize on in order to export.

Mr Skou explained: "This is because we suffer from a lack of language expertise. Many directors of these small companies with good creative ideas do not have language ability and only speak Danish. Hence they cannot get into the export scene."

Further north, at Aalborg, world renowned for its aquatics, which is named after the city, the North Jutland Development Corporation is

trying to attract foreign investment.

It recently hired the Chicago-based Futurus Company to prepare a business investment plan for the area to attract United States companies. About 600 American businessmen have been approached so far.

"We believe that about 40 may be interested", said Mr Jens Skov, of the development corporation. Most of these are in high technology areas, mainly electronics.

Next, major representatives of the North Jutland Development Corporation will be going to the United States to try to clinch a deal with some of the interested companies. "If we only get one, we shall be happy", Mr Skov said.

Esbjerg, on the west coast is the main ferry port for services between Denmark and Britain. It is from there that DFDS has been operating links with Britain for 100 years, mostly to Harwich. On this service the line carried 400,000 passengers last year—representing 63 per cent capacity with 100 per cent for vehicles. DFDS also operates a joint service between Newcastle upon Tyne and Gothenberg in Sweden for the three summer months.

Esbjerg is the main export port for Danish products to Britain. Most of these are agriculturally based and originate from the surrounding hinterland of Jutland.

As a tourist area Jutland, with its miles of beaches and sand dunes, has much to offer. There are thousands of holiday cottages to let and cycling, with low undulating hills often crowned with beechwoods. For the beachman, the Limfjorden, links the North Sea with the calmer waters of the eastern inner sea. There are many yacht harbours which are often packed in the summer months.

For the archaeologist there are Viking ruins and settlements from the ancient town of Hedeby in the south to the folk museum with the "bog man" at the mansion of Moesgaard near Aarhus. Moesgaard also has some reconstructed prehistoric houses and in Aarhus itself is a delightful Gamle By, or old town where old houses and shops from the medieval age to the nineteenth century have been assembled as a historic tourist attraction.

M.F.

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* International Herald Tribune, October 8, 1979

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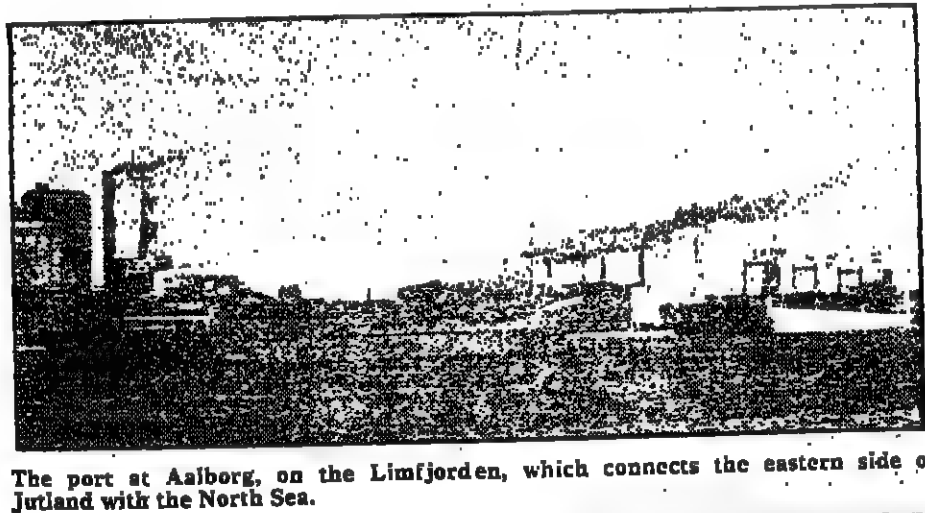
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Bernard Levin

Farewell, I hope, my lovely

There is a most engaging, comic, and poignant book, put together by Mr. Stephen Pile, called *The Book of Heroic Failures*, which, as its title suggests, records not the successes but the failures of the heroes of the past. The book seems to have been a great success, making it probable that another edition will in time be called for; this is just as well, for in the last few days there has passed into history an achievement in the realm of failure that surely dwarfs not only anything previously recorded by Mr. Pile but anything the most extravagant imagination could invent. I refer to the gentleman who was sent to prison for life after a trial in which the court was told of seven unsuccessful attempts he had made to murder his wife, without her noticing that anything out of the ordinary was going on.

Now on the whole, I do not usually find murder, or even attempted murder, amusing for laughter, though some theatrical farces have used sudden and unnatural death to considerable and hilarious effect. Notably Mr. Royce Ryton's *The Unvarnished Truth*. But as I read through the prosecution's catalogue of reasons for the defendant's vain efforts to get away with the wife of his bosom I was seized with a wild laughter of the kind released by the best surrealist art, and by the end was helplessly hysterical at the breakfast table.

Having first taken out £250,000 of insurance on his helpmeet's life, a circumstance which apparently failed to arouse her curiosity, let alone suspicion, our unsuccessful felon got down to work. First he put mercury, a dangerous poison if ingested, into a strawberry jam he had made for her. It fell out, however, that he used too much of it—a case, if ever there was one, of over-egging the pudding.

Nothing daunted, Bluebeard then tried stuffing a mackerel with the same deadly substance (a matter, I suppose, of putting the poison in the mackerel, but for some unaccountable reason it had no effect on the little lady. Warning to his work, he took her on holiday to Yugoslavia, where he invited her to sit on the edge of a cliff; the court was told that she had declined, prompted by some "sixth sense". I am glad it came to her rescue, though I must say that by now I should have thought it a sense unnecessary: one or two of the better-known fish ought to have been quite sufficient to alert her to the fact that the magic had gone out of her marriage, particularly when, on their return from Yugoslavia, he repeated the cliff-suggestion, this time at Beachy Head. (What do you suppose he actually said? "Darling, it would be rather nice if you were to go over there and sit on the edge of the cliff, with your feet over the edge." "Why, darling?" "Oh, I don't know—I just thought you might like to get the weight off your feet.")

Two goes of mercury poisoning and two cliff-hangers having failed, our hero took to arson. While she was in bed, ill, he started a fire outside the bedroom door. Nothing daunted, Bluebeard then tried stuffing a mackerel with the same deadly substance (a matter, I suppose, of putting the poison in the mackerel, but for some unaccountable reason it had no effect on the little lady. Warning to his work, he took her on holiday to Yugoslavia, where he invited her to sit on the edge of a cliff; the court was told that she had declined, prompted by some "sixth sense". I am glad it came to her rescue, though I must say that by now I should have thought it a sense unnecessary: one or two of the better-known fish ought to have been quite sufficient to alert her to the fact that the magic had gone out of her marriage, particularly when, on their return from Yugoslavia, he repeated the cliff-suggestion, this time at Beachy Head. (What do you suppose he actually said? "Darling, it would be rather nice if you were to go over there and sit on the edge of the cliff, with your feet over the edge." "Why, darling?" "Oh, I don't know—I just thought you might like to get the weight off your feet.")

trying anything twice, he waited a bit and again set light to his flat, but this time succeeded only in razing the place to the ground, thus inadvertently obliterating the spirit, if not the letter, of that ancient Chinese proverb which says "It is not worth burning down your house simply to inconvenience your mother-in-law".

By now, even if the missus was still unaware that hubby had found new meaning in the bit about having and holding in sickness and in health till death do part, she must at least have come to the conclusion that her footsteps were being dogged by something quite exceptional in the way of bad luck. (How do you suppose it went, when she mentioned the fact to him? "Nonsense, darling, you're imagining things." "Yes, I suppose I am." "Of course you are, sweetie—why don't you go and lean out of the window?" Nor was the run of ill-fortune quite over yet: one day, when they were out in their car, he proposed that she should go and stand in the middle of the road, in order, he explained, that he might "test the car's suspension". I am not a driver and understand nothing of cars; for all I know, that is the normal and accepted method of testing a car's suspension. But even if it is, I cannot help feeling that our friend's better half might by now have cottoned on to the fact that whenever she had one of her strokes of mischief, her husband was invariably near by, and that a good case could be made out for a plea of post hoc, propter hoc.

It seems, however, that she had never heard of Sir Karl Popper's solution to the problem of induction; she did not, as bidden, go and stand in the middle of the road, but neither did she repair with all deliberate speed to the nearest police station. Instead, she stood patiently at the edge of the road, while the man of the house drove the car straight at her "but at the last second veered away". (Ah, monsieur, quelle délicatesse!)

At this point, he went and confessed, which is just as well, because having thus successfully exhausted all other means of making away with his dear old Dutch, his next attempt would probably have involved the dropping of a fifty-megaton thermonuclear bomb on her, which might have had truly serious consequences—probably not including, though, the arousal of her suspicions.

There is also room for speculation about the details of the dialogue that ensued when the police arrived to break the news that they had just arrested the man of the house on some exceptionally interesting charges. ("Your husband, madame, appears to have made no fewer than seven attempts to murder you." "Nonsense—we're perfectly happy, and in any case he wouldn't hurt a fly." "Nevertheless, madame, we have his signed confession." "I tell you it's impossible; besides—no, hang on a minute, there was something rather odd, come to think of it, that happened the other day.")

If it's heroic failures you're after, then you will allow that they don't come in bigger sizes than this one. Mind you, the wife in the case, though she does not qualify for heroic-failure status, certainly has a right to be considered for another, older, work of reference, *The Guinness Book of Records*, in which she would, I suppose, figure under some heading such as *Most Unobservant Victim of Homicidal Husband*. "It is more honourable to be deceived," said Confucius, "than to distrust our friends." No doubt, but as this case shows, it can also be more dangerous. My advice to super-faithful Penelope, should she go to visit her husband in prison, is to trust with the greatest reserve any claim he may make to have left a large sum of money for her, wrapped in waterproof cloth, at the bottom of the crocodile pool in the London Zoo.



Black demonstrators and police clash in London on Monday.

The messy compromise which Mr. Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, announced over the introduction of Citizens Band radio was in the end forced on the Government by the failure of one of his favourite techniques. He starts out with a proposal in keeping with the fashionable party rhetoric, waits for the opposition to it to emerge, then backs away from the original proposal. The technique enables him to go where his instinct tells him sensible Tories should be—in the middle ground, in the heartland of one nation Conservatism. If anyone else did it, it would be called a U-turn.

The technique was first used in opposition to outflank Mrs. Thatcher's commitment to a change of policy on immigration without her knowledge. After a meeting with a group of Indian community leaders in July 1978, he promised them that a proposed register of dependants would not be limited to the Indian subcontinent as Mrs. Thatcher originally intended. A week before, on BBC Television's *Panorama*, she was absolutely against extending the idea. Immediately after Mr. Whitelaw's commitment to change, she remained unaware of what had become a fait accompli.

A similar technique was used to soften another policy commitment which was stirring up the race issue—the Nationality Bill. Protests inside and outside Parliament greeted the Bill's intention that British citizenship should be acquired automatically at birth only by children born in this country, one of whose parents must be a British citizen or who was born abroad. Having previously tried to defend what he now evidently acknowledged to be indefensible, Mr. Whitelaw changed tack. An amendment to the Bill was tabled by the Government to give all children born in the United Kingdom the right to acquire British citizenship, provided they could fulfil a residence qualification.

The subtle art of making gentle U-turns

Mr. John Ennals, director of the United Kingdom Immigrants' Advisory Service, says that "All the Bill does," is to "equally citizens by naturalization or registration with citizens by descent instead of citizens by birth. This is neither illogical (neither category is actually born here) nor unreasonable."

As in the case of Citizen Band radio, Mr. Whitelaw's decision, made in response to pressure, did not end the row. The messiness of the compromise, as Home Secretary, is even more apparent. By not reaching a decision earlier, Mr. Whitelaw now makes it likely that illicit broadcasting will continue on 37 MHz (amplitude modulated) which the Home Office says causes interference with television reception and emergency services. The reason is that while Mr. Whitelaw was pondering what to do and allowing pressure to build up, numbers of illegal users grew to more than quarter of a million.

Mr. Whitelaw's compromise is to go for two frequencies, one at around 930MHz and another at 27MHz. The one at 27MHz will not be AM (amplitude modulated) as the users wanted, but FM (frequency modulated). The latest example of Mr. Whitelaw's gradualist approach is in plans to reduce overcrowding in prisons. He has so far moved so slowly on the issue that people have sometimes been unaware of the changes in his position. It is, of course, a sensitive area, because, as Home Secretary, he must not be seen to be telling courts their business. Yet it is they who have the power to reduce numbers in prison (for which he is responsible) by sending fewer people there and for shorter sentences.

He has now got to the point of allowing people to realize that the Government may have to introduce legislation if numbers go on rising. If they do, and if previous form is any guide, it will soon become more clearly apparent what the Government may do, so that it can

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Mr. William Whitelaw

be seen to be responding sensitively to pressure. At some stage he must make his intentions explicit. It would be good from his point of view if some of the pressure came from MPs.

Mr. Whitelaw's so far almost imperceptible movement has avoided pot-shots from hard-line Conservative backbenchers. The party's rhetoric is in favour of tougher punishment. He has responded to that by

keeping a blind curdlin' promise to introduce sharp shocks in detention centres, though the results have yet to be shown in the process. It will be a tribute to Mr. Whitelaw's political skill if he does manage a cut in prison sentencing without upsetting the courts or tough-minded rank-and-file Conservatives.

Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

New words and new meanings: an occasional series by Philip Howard

All this and deloping too

new example of Haigpeak from those confirmation hearings across the Atlantic for proposed members of the new administration. A prospective secretary of something or other was answering a series of searching questions. One inquirer hypothesized as follows: "Mr. Secretary, suppose you were in a situation where... What would your reaction be?" The secretarial candidate replied: "I cannot answer that question, sir. It is too supposititious." What an ass-hole.

Here is another malapropism, misquoting, or powerfully true, meaning that is creeping in to the language. It comes from a recent review of a new book by a woman psychologist at the Berkeley faculty. To judge by the title of the review and the first paragraph, she seemed to advocate celibacy, which used to mean the state of living unmarried, particularly having taken a religious vow of chastity, as recommended by St. Paul. However, as one read on, it turned out that her thesis is that it can be beneficial to forego sex for, say, weeks, or even months. Naturally, or powerfully true, depending, I suppose, on what

she means by beneficial. But she is using celibacy as a novel synonym (or metaphor) for transient chastity or abstinence. This is a new spring up after centuries when old earth is turned in such phrases as: "If you are agreeable, we shall go to the union meeting; or, alternatively, perhaps not."

Finally, in this Balaam basket of *deloping*, I find not so much a new word as a non-word. It is "delope", it means, I think, deliberately to fire one's pistol wide in a duel; the sort of romantic but imprudent thing that heroes of

cent for three centuries. The primary meaning of *agreeable* today is pleasant. The old meaning of "agreeing with" is flourishing again, as reassures us after centuries when old earth is turned in such phrases as: "If you are agreeable, we shall go to the union meeting; or, alternatively, perhaps not."

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So what's in a name?

Now that the Democratic Don has resigned the Labour whip and voiced their disaffection with Bennery, Footling, and Thatcherism, I anxiously await signs of more positive and constructive moves towards building the promised new force in British politics.

What they need now is a manifesto and a name. I can offer help with the latter, thanks to my devoted readers. Many think they should be called the Limehouse Blues, but whether you view them as neo-Conservatives depends upon where you are standing at the time. Walter Butterworth of Rickmansworth offers a selection: New Liberal Party, New Neo-Liberal Party, Nearly New Labour Party, and more seriously, PR Party, on the ground that proportional representation is its only real hope of success.

I think we can do better. As it is an embryonic movement on the verge of birth, how about the In-Labour Party? Or, as it is still at the experimental stage, the Laboratory Party, as suggested by M. J. Findlay of Haverfordwest.

A. P. Thirlwall of Canterbury is not, I suspect, a supporter, to suggest Democratic Independent Empiricists (DIE for short). Nor is the reader who suggested the Skiers, for the party to lead Britain downhill under control.

No, they need something better. Gerald Harris of London will want to name them Woy's Toy, and to give them the campaigning slogan "Where the elite meet the office". If the Tribune Group wish to distrust their will that rotten tomato, there will be no change.

Andrew Grant of Melrose offers The Lads (Liberal and Labour) for those who support Woy's Toy, and The Cads (Centre and Democratic Socialists) for those who do not. Those who join The Lads will be known as Fads (For a Democratic Socialism), and when they become disillusioned and left again they would be Passing Fads.

But my money goes on the name put forward by Robert Seed, Christopher Place and a reader signing himself J. N. Whitehall: the Social Democratic Alliance. This is brief, sharp and to the point but, most

importantly, it can be shortened to SD Alliance. Here, then, is a world exclusive: the first publication of the new party's replacement for *The Red Flag*, their battle hymn to be sung at party conferences to a familiar wartime air: So Dem All, So Dem All, On L.L. Lab and L.L. Lab, it's a polarisation that's rocking the nation, So join us and sing So Dem All.

Cross fire

There seems to be little love lost between Labour members of the European Parliament and the hard-bitten party veterans back at the Commons. This I deduce from a recent sharp and unparliamentary exchange of views between Ken Collins, a former East Kilbride councillor and now deputy leader of the Labour group in Europe, and Willie Hamilton, the republican sniper for Central Fife.

Hamilton has been directing his fire at the Welsh junketing undertaken by Strasbourg MPs, such as the visit by 36 of them to South America which cost the Euro-taxpayer £250,000. Collins observed that Hamilton had put down a 10-minute rule Bill evidently aimed at

curbing Euro-MPs' expenses. So he wrote asking what Hamilton had done to cut spending when, as a Euro-MP in the days before direct elections, he had been a member of the budgets committee responsible for drawing up the rules. "I assume that you will be happy to provide this information," wrote Collins. He assumed wrongly.

"Thanks for your letter," responded the Scourge of Buck House. "Now you are firmly on the paragonary gravy train, don't pretend you're not enjoying every minute. So cut out the cant and humbug. Yours sincerely, Ken Collins."

To which Collins retorted: "Dear Comrade Hamilton, it is a pity that your years in the House of Commons have not taught you the difference between political debate and downright nastiness."

It seems to me that humbug is not a quality that is confined to Members of the European Parliament and I note that you have been unable to supply me with any of the information I requested. Perhaps the directly elected Parliament is the patronage system which preceded it. Comrade Hamilton has let the matter rest there, presumably not wishing to abuse the free postage facility which Commons MPs enjoy.

Officer material

After the failure of the Spanish military coup, I have a suspicion that something similar is being cooked up here, and that private members of the junta are already being trained at Sandhurst.

Double fixture

These are tricky times for a Minister of what we still like to call Sport. After the Caribbean hurricane that has blown

Home hint

Bernard Dix, the militant assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, is set to take over the seat on Labour's National Executive Committee vacated by Tom Bradley, MP, who has joined the social democrats. The intriguing question is which of the NEC's influential sub-

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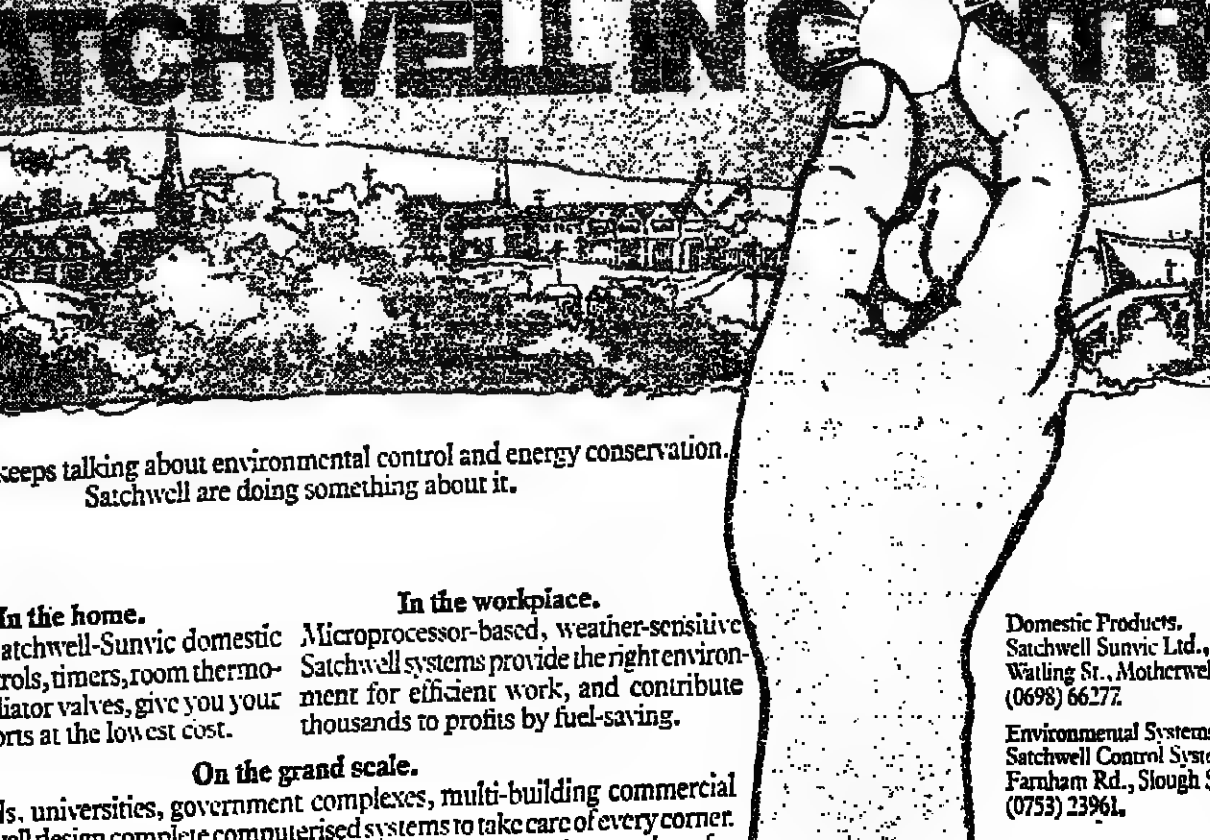
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BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Glasgow Central Station in the Royal Train this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow, Mr. Michael Kelly, the Right Hon. Lord Provost.

His Royal Highness afterwards opened and toured the Carers for the 1980's exhibition at the Kelvin Hall.

This afternoon the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Tenant Farming Unit at Maryhill and the New Venture Workshop and the 1970 Club at Pollock House, Glasgow.

Major John Cargill was in attendance. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Cheshire Regiment, this morning at Buckingham Palace received Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. MacG. Percival upon his relinquishing command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel A. De P. Guvauin upon assuming command.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) received Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Duffell upon his relinquishing command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel A. Little upon assuming command.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Penny at the Memorial Service for the Right Hon. Malcolm MacDonald which was held in Westminster Abbey today.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Mr. John Macdonald as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 3: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning visited the Household Cavalry Regiment at Hyde Park Barracks.

The Lady Grimthorpe, Captain Alastair Aird and Captain Asha Windham were in attendance. Her Majesty was represented by Sir Martin Gilliat at the Memorial Service for the Right Hon. Malcolm MacDonald which was held in Westminster Abbey today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, the Countess of Devon Down Day Centre, Devon, Bristol, and later, as President, visited Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army, Bath.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight. Mrs. Michael Wigley was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Merseyside on March 13. Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will attend the awards ceremony of Derby Ladies College, in the Assembly Room, Derby, on March 10.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a preview of the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition at Earl's Court, London, on March 9.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will attend a charity concert at the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Leeds on April 6.

Princess Alexandra will be present at the reception being given for the preview of an exhibition arranged by the Thames Heritage Trust at Benthall, Kingston upon Thames, on April 9.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Viscount Amory will be held on Tuesday, March 10, in St Paul's Cathedral at 11.30 am.

Birthdays today
Mr. Basil Brothwood, 71; Sir Arthur Bryan, 58; Professor H. J. Eysenck, 53; Sir Geoffrey Jackson, 60; Sir Ralph Millett, 76; Mr. Patrick Moore, 58; Colonel Sir John Cawley, 79; Sir Alan Sillitoe, 53; Dame Albertine Winster, 74.

Latest wills
Johnny Owen leaves £45,189.

Mr. John Richard Owen, of Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, the British European and Commonwealth bantamweight boxing champion, who died in Los Angeles from injuries sustained in his challenge for the world title, left estate valued at £45,189 net. He left it to his partner.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Bainbridge, Mr. Bruce Foad, of St. Ives, Cornwall, £149,832.
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Forthcoming marriages

Sir Glenn Hickman, Bt, and Miss H. M. E. Moffett. The engagement is announced between Sir Glenn Hickman, Bt, and Miss H. M. E. Moffett, daughter of the late Sir Howard Hickman, Bt, and Lady Hickman, of Twickenham, Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Heather Mary Elizabeth, elder daughter of Dr. W. J. Moffett and the late Dr. C. E. Moffett, of Westcott Manor, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Dr. C. J. Best and Dr. P. T. Clarke. The engagement is announced between Dr. C. J. Best and Dr. P. T. Clarke, son of the late Mr. Samuel Best and Mrs. Jennifer Best, of Kings House, Powestock, Boreham, and Patricia, youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Clarke, of 22 Copple Hill, Wembley, Middlesex, SW20.

Mr. S. G. Callaghan and Miss G. M. Sessions. The engagement is announced between Mr. S. G. Callaghan, CB, and Miss G. M. Sessions, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, and Gabrielle, second daughter of Mrs. K. Sessions and the late Dominic Sessions, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

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Mr. W. L. Johnstone and Miss A. M. S. Markers. The engagement is announced between Mr. W. L. Johnstone, of Bonshaw Mains, Perthshire, and Miss A. M. S. Markers, of Bonshaw Mains, Perthshire, and Alison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Markers, of Orton, Southern Cross Drive, Constantia, Cape, South Africa.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Penny at the Memorial Service for the Right Hon. Malcolm MacDonald which was held in Westminster Abbey today.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Mr. John Macdonald as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

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Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight. Mrs. Michael Wigley was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Merseyside on March 13. Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will attend the awards ceremony of Derby Ladies College, in the Assembly Room, Derby, on March 10.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a preview of the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition at Earl's Court, London, on March 9.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will attend a charity concert at the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Leeds on April 6.

Princess Alexandra will be present at the reception being given for the preview of an exhibition arranged by the Thames Heritage Trust at Benthall, Kingston upon Thames, on April 9.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Viscount Amory will be held on Tuesday, March 10, in St Paul's Cathedral at 11.30 am.

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Latest wills
Johnny Owen leaves £45,189.

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English National Opera gets £4.5m

By Our Music Reporter
The English National Opera have received a grant of £4.5m for 1981-82 from the Arts Council, an increase of 12.2 per cent on the grant for their London work in the current financial year. The company said that after all the warnings about cuts they were very pleased with the amount.

Nevertheless, Lord Harewood, its managing director, said they were not very confident about the financial future. He felt the subscription scheme was in a bad state and he had managed to come out almost "on budget".

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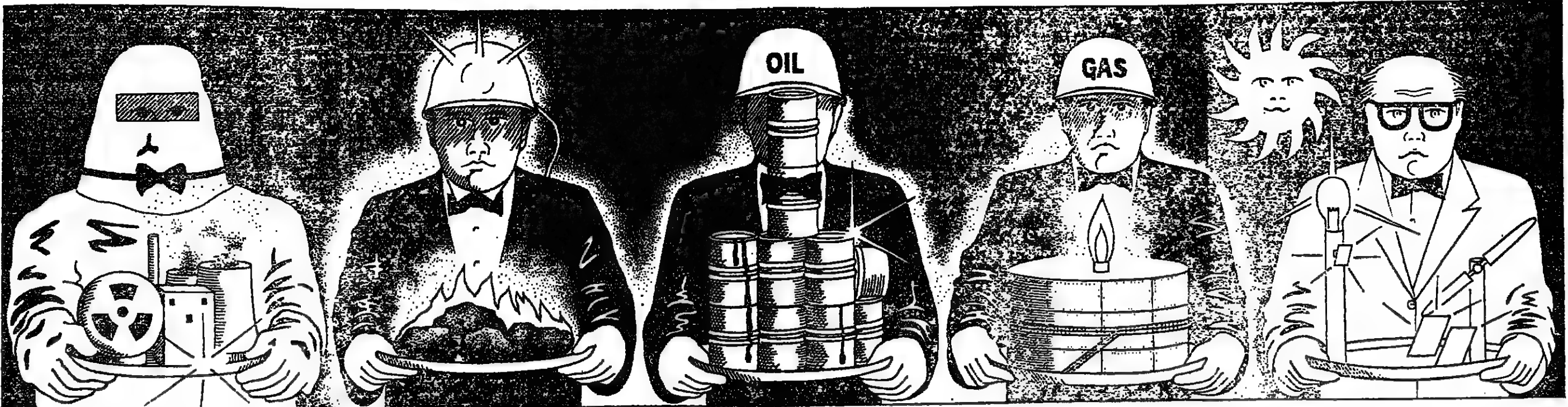
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ENERGY FUTURES

John H. Williams



Some time in the next century our energy could be provided by technologies which have yet to be properly proved even in the laboratory. Fusion power could take over from the nuclear fission reactors of today, providing heat to drive the steam turbines of electrical generation by the combining, instead of splitting, of atoms.

Benign energy sources could proliferate. Every house could be built to take the maximum advantage of the sun, with south-facing windows, advanced insulation and solar panels for partial space and water heating. Clusters of giant windmills could be adding electricity to the national grid. Remote villages could have windmills of their own. Nodding platforms could lift to the waves which every day dissipate on Britain's shores sufficient power, if it could all be harnessed, to supply all the country's needs.

Photovoltaic cells, now used in power satellites in space, could become commonplace, and oil from chales, tar sands, and even coal, could, if more expensive than today, still be available at a cost which allowed the contribution of personal and public transport we have all come to expect. Most forecasters are much less worried about what happens after 2020 than they are about the transition before it.

And that is not just because 40 years hence seems so far into the future. The technologies to provide the world's energy then are already available. Even if fusion and photovoltaics failed to become commercial propositions, a steady increase of thermal nuclear, fast breeder, wave, wind, tidal power and non-conventional sources of oil and gas would meet requirements.

The problem is achieving that steady increase. The true message of the 1978-80 oil price crisis was that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would never again increase its production and the industrialized West would be faced with meeting its energy demand in other ways. In the two decades in 1980, two thirds of energy demand had been met by growth in oil output. From now on economic growth will have to become both less energy-dependent and less dependent on imported oil.

Recession throughout the West has allowed, so far at least, yet another oil price increase as a result of the Iran-Iraq war. Energy consumption in Britain, which is much better off than most of the West for energy

announced only 15 months ago.

Development of the North Sea has proceeded slower than forecast, but then oil consumption has shrunk too, bringing net self-sufficiency at a much lower rate of output than expected. The first decision under the Government's stated depletion policy, that net self-sufficiency be maintained for as long as possible, has been taken by delaying for two years the start of production on the British National Oil Corporation's Clyde field. But that decision was far from simple and the way in which it was reached, with the Treasury battling for a longer delay for reasons connected with the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, was an indication of how it was easily possible for matters of energy policy to become subservient to other government aims.

There can be no doubt that the new supplementary petroleum revenue tax of 20 per cent, to be levied on North Sea fields from April 1, will take money out of the sector which would otherwise have been used for new developments. It is not possible to take £1,000m out of the companies' revenues without it having some effect. It might not be a bad thing if a slowing of the pace of development could lead to an alignment with depletion policy. The need for a large exploration programme to keep production up through the 1990s remains however.

The unfortunate part of energy planning is that the lead times are so long and the forecasts so uncertain that mistakes may not show up until two or even three parliaments after the decision was taken.

The latest projections of demand made by the Department of Energy were published in 1979 but were out of date almost as soon as they were written. The price of oil was expected to reach \$30 a barrel (in 1977 prices) by the end of the century. Most of that increase has already taken place and the economic growth assumptions of 2 per cent for a low case and 3 per cent for a higher case, look increasingly questionable.

The National Coal Board was strongly attacked by expert witnesses called by protesters against its planned new coal mine in the Vale of Belvoir in north-east Leicestershire, on the ground that the nation would not need the production within the timescale estimated by the board. In fact the coal industry has reversed its long time decline in deep

output just as demand has dropped.

Domestic coal production is being undercut by imports, but the more new pits it brings into production the more of the older, uneconomic 10 per cent of production, losing £190m a year, it would be able to close. Miners are naturally troubled over allowing a reduction in output and numbers employed before new pits are working. The intention of the Plan for Coal of 1974 was to raise output. For years the electricity authorities have been as concerned at the NCB's ability to deliver the coal they promised as they have at being obliged to buy more than they needed. Everyone's worry is of a profusion of energy supply and a lack of demand.

Should, therefore, the coal and nuclear programmes be cut? Projections of demand provided by the Department of Energy to the Inspector in the Vale of Belvoir inquiry showed that if economic growth were cut to only 1 per cent a year, total demand for coal would be only 110 million tonnes in 1990 and 115 million tonnes in 2000. That is less than is being sold now.

The Energy Select Committee, in its report on the nuclear power programme, questioned both whether the electricity authorities' projection of a 21 per cent a year economic growth in 2000 would materialize and whether electricity demand would rise at 70 per cent of the economic growth rate.

What must be decided is when a short-term fluctuation has become a long-term trend. Programmes, whether they be nuclear, coal, or oil and gas, have a habit of slipping naturally, particularly if a lack of demand is straining cash. The nuclear power programme has slipped by at least a year because of a delay in producing final designs, and the coal programme has slipped badly through planning delays and over-optimistic estimates of the effects of new investment in oil pits. Uneconomic production can be subsidized for a time, but subsidy is never a successful way of achieving long-term growth. If the coal industry does not eventually stand on its own feet, it will shrink.

The greatest single energy saver in Britain could be harnessing waste heat from power stations, but the problem where heat to invest is not easily solved, and political difficulties line any route to the future.

Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Energy economists describe coal as the "swing" fuel of the future. It is destined to take over from oil as the prime internationally-traded energy source. It is more flexible, more versatile than nuclear power and can act as a substitute for oil, as a feedstock for petrochemicals, as a source of heat, for the generation of electric power or synthetic petrol.

The World Coal Study, WOCOL, directed by Professor Carroll Wilson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in which the National Coal Board took part, estimated that coal would have to supply between one half and two thirds of the additional energy required by the world during the next 20 years.

To achieve this means that production would have to increase between two and a half and three times, and world trade in steam coal, used for most purposes other than steel making, would have to grow between 10 and 15 times. One of the big problems identified by the study was that over the next few years demand for coal was likely to be slack, but the basic services of ports, railways, and tankers required to ship it would have to be under construction.

At the summit meeting of heads of state of the seven leading economic powers in Venice last June, political will was put behind the need to increase coal trade. As part of their declaration on reducing oil imports they agreed to double coal production by 1990, a target which most forecasters believed was obtainable only by 2000, and then only with considerable difficulty.

International coal trade, however, is already picking up, and the bottlenecks predicted in the WOCOL report are already occurring. Competition in ports in the United States and Australia has cut the deliveries planned under contract to the Central Electricity Generating Board in Britain. Production capacity in the United States, however, remains well above demand.

The problems that an increased international trade in coal can provide for Britain are also rapidly becoming obvious. Imported coal can be landed at £10 a tonne less than is possible with native production or even more cheaply.

Production in western United States and Australia

Versatile source of power

Deep mining should remain economic

But it is understandable that both the miners and the coal board should be nervous of allowing their output to fall — markets once lost, particularly to imported coal, may never be regained. The Government's plan in the Coal Act was to force the industry to its competitive demand grows fairly slowly and the Government continues with 15,000 MW of new nuclear capacity over the decade from 1982, demand for coal for electricity generation will be static at best. Growth in industry may depend on the willingness of government to subsidize oil conversion programmes, while the need for synthetics will depend both on the level of discoveries in the North Sea and the willingness of the Norwegians to allow their gas to be delivered to Britain.

But it is not safe at the moment to assume anything except that coal's importance in Britain's energy needs is likely to increase.

N.H.



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Relaunch in Britain welcomed as modest and sensible

When Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, stood up in the House of Commons on December 18, 1979, to launch again nuclear power in Britain, the programme he suggested was welcomed both by politicians and industry as modest and sensible.

That was the response which had been hoped for. According to the Government's energy projections of 1979 between 33,000 MW and 36,000 MW of new nuclear plant would be required by the end of the century, including the two advanced gas cooled British designed reactors (AGR) which were already proposed.

Compared with the orders required to meet those projections, Mr Howell's statement that the electricity supply industry had advised that "even on modest assumptions" it would "need to order at least one new nuclear power station a year in the decade from 1982, or a programme of 15,000MW over 10 years" seemed to be treading gently indeed.

It was as the Cabinet had intended. The Government was anxious to avoid the strong opposition to nuclear power which has built up in West Germany, seen cuts in Sweden, and prevented development in other European countries altogether. It wished to establish the option of an alternative to the British-designed machines by subjecting an American designed pressurized water reactor (PWR) to a public inquiry, but the type of reactor for future orders was not specified.

Conservation groups attacked the programme as unnecessary, but the gentle approach seemed to be working. The programme might not provide sufficient nuclear power to generate half Britain's electricity and supply a fifth of primary energy demand by the year 2000 as had been expected in the 1979 energy projections, but it was a cautious move in that direction, able to be speeded if need be.

Now the all-party select

committee on energy has attacked even Mr Howell's modest programme as being over-ambitious. A dispute over which type of reactor should be chosen has been reopened, and the Government and electricity supply authorities once again find themselves on the defensive.

The select committee makes several points. It is unhappy at the spare capacity that the Central Electricity Generating Board keeps available to make certain of meeting peak winter demand. It believes that the forecasts of economic growth of 2½ per cent annually to 2000 are too high, and that it is unlikely that electricity demand will, as has been suggested, increase at approximately 70 per cent of the rate of growth of the gross domestic product. In short, the MPs believe that the £15,000m earmarked for the nuclear programme could be better spent elsewhere.

The attack without doubt adds to the considerable uncertainties already hanging over the nuclear industry. Ordering the two advanced gas cooled reactors has not gone according to plan. Designs took longer to prepare than expected, and the National Nuclear Corporation has been forced into being an agent of the electricity generating authorities rather than being the main contractor, as a result of legal difficulties connected with its small capitalization.

The Government had second thoughts about going ahead with the two AGRs last year, and although it is now too late to abandon either, the temptation to slow the rest of the programme must be strong. New capacity, however, is needed. As the MPs themselves make clear, some 43,000 MW of generating capacity will be 30 years old by 2000, and a decade later much of it is bound to be near the end of its economic life. Most of this plant is coal-fired, and demand for coal from industry and possibly for synthetic natural gas should by that time be rising.

Nevertheless, the drop in demand for electricity over the past 12 months would indicate caution over future ordering. Electricity sales at present are expected to be a full 7 per cent down on the previous year. The



Mr Martin Stevens (left), Conservative MP for Fulham, with Anti-Nuclear Campaign demonstrators.

effects of conservation and the recession have reduced demand to below the level seen during the national steel strike, and the steel industry is one of the electricity authorities' biggest customers.

Just how fast demand might pick up once the recession ended is impossible to forecast. The problem with nuclear power as with all other energy industries, however, is that decisions on investments have to be made now to provide for demand eight years and more away.

The Central Electricity Generating Board itself

claims that as a rule nuclear stations will pay for themselves through their lower costs, even if they are not required to replace stations no longer used or to meet a rise in demand. This is a seductive argument for going ahead with an ordering programme, but cost estimates are open to error, and benefits spread over 30 or 40 years exceedingly difficult to estimate. It is also true, as the MPs point out in their report, that if it were possible to reduce the amount of spare capacity to meet peak demand, from 28 per cent of the total as planned at present to 20 per cent, investment of some £6,000m might be saved over the next 20 years.

Taking everything into account, the select committee did not think it unreasonable to have a modest programme of nuclear plant building, but it was sceptical whether it should be as high as 15,000 MW. It believed that each station should be assessed on its economic merits.

Worldwide there is likely to be substantial pressure on the nuclear industry around the turn of the century, and Britain would do well to keep a capability of its own. It matters little which design is chosen.

The select committee made great play over the electricity authorities' belief that a pressurized water reactor might cost 34 per cent more to build in Britain than it did elsewhere. The Central Electricity Generating Board has tended in the past to prefer the American design. What

needs to be done is for one or the other to be chosen as a single reactor type, and for the industry to be allowed to commit itself wholeheartedly to building that type.

Estimates of the comparative cost should be made before the first PWR is completed. Delays on site, such as at the ill-fated oil-fired Isle of Grain station, having nothing to do specifically with nuclear power; they happen at large sites of any kind.

The onus is on the CEGB and the Scottish authorities now to reaffirm their reasons for wanting a nuclear programme of the size they put to the select committee, and convince the country that it is required.

Nicholas Hirst

Scramble is on to develop fuel of the future

The projected closure of coal pits, which has caused such a furor in Britain scarcely seems conducive to the idea that coal is an energy source of the future. Yet the actions of multinational oil companies seem to tell another story, for they are buying into coalmines in America, Australia and South Africa with great enthusiasm.

The scramble is on for a share of what seems likely to be the fastest-growing commodity trade of the next 30 years—good, old-fashioned coal. The twist comes in how the coal is to be used. This resurgence of interest in the fuel is not prompted by the need to supply electricity generating stations but by plans to convert the oldest of the natural hydrocarbons in present use into a liquid substitute for oil or natural gas.

The leading 12 international oil companies are already spending more than \$1,000m a year on various developments of coal. A number of oil-from-coal feasibility studies are in hand in Australia, with the backing of commercial interests in Japan, West Germany and the United States. A large-scale project involving the Australian federal Government and the state Governments of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, known as the Imhausen study, is being developed with West Germany. It has identified five locations that are deemed suitable for coal liquefaction schemes. Each of the states is examining plans for producing 80,000 barrels of oil a day.

Competition for a stake in the coal business goes much wider than bidding for partnership in mining ventures. Research is being intensified into methods of discovering the most effective way of turning coal into oil, gas and chemicals.

By the turn of the century, fortunes are going to be won and lost on technological choices. The National Coal Board in Britain has staked an early claim with experimental processes to liquefy coal, and is now building two pilot plants. Plans by British Gas include the erection of a £10m plant at Westfield for producing substitute natural gas (SNG) from coal as part of a £300m research and development programme.

To date the main commercial experience has been in

South Africa, which has been producing oil and petrochemicals from coal after converting it to gas. But the chemical composition of coal varies widely, and the commercial operations of conversion plants are influenced by the factor as much as by the costs, which differ for open cast and underground workings.

The rate of development will depend on a number of interlocking factors concerning the technology of coal conversion and the needs of particular consumers for petrochemicals, transport and power supplies. As the price of oil continues to rise, the value of heavy fuel oil is also increasing. It is therefore an attractive proposition for oil companies to turn the latter into lighter products such as petrol, jet fuel and petrochemical feedstock.

Hitherto the cost of refining the heavy residues has been uneconomic. One consequence of conversion is that the market for "steam" coal for power stations and for industries such as cement, thereby releasing the heavy fuel oil for refining to higher value products.

Recoverable coal reserves are more than five times greater than oil reserves, could last nearly 300 years on estimates of consumption, and are more evenly distributed round the world. However, world trade in coal is small compared with oil (Gulf, Exxon and the N. of the states is examining plans for producing 80,000 barrels of oil a day).

The latest review of resources in Australia puts reserves of easily and economically recoverable deposits of high quality black coal at more than 27,000 million tonnes, or enough to last 1,000 years at the present rate of exploitation. And there are further inferred resources of more than 600,000 million tonnes.

But an indication of the speed at which coal production is likely to grow is seen in forecasts by Shell that international crude in steam coal will rise from 48 million tonnes in 1980 to 75 million tonnes in 1983, and 100 million tonnes in 1985; and these estimates have recently been increased.

Over a longer period the coal will be converted to premium products by pro-

cesses such as that developed by Shell for producing gas. Texaco is advanced on a gasification process, and Mobil is peering at a method to convert methanol, made from coal, to petrol. The huge E company is spending millions of pounds on gasification, and, more particularly, liquefaction.

The choice between acid hydrogen to coal in a liquefaction process, thus recycling the oil barrel, or breaking the complex coal molecule down to a simple substance such as SNG, is a balance between technical and commercial factors. Among the issues are questions of whether conversion plants are going to be placed adjacent to the head and which of the liquefaction products is in demand.

For strategic reasons, need for a secure supply of petrol and chemical feedstocks propelled S Africa into building its plants, based on investment in Germany in the 1970s. Other methods are being devised. For instance, Shell combined its processes converting oil to gas with Koppers technology, which makes a wide range of chemicals.

The National Coal Board and most of the large oil companies are concentrating their attention on liquefaction, rather than gasifying the coal, either catalytic (Conoco, Shell, Exxon and the N. of the states is examining plans for producing 80,000 barrels of oil a day).

The commercial production of petrol or substitute gas on a global scale is expected before the 1990s, and the particular products are expected to be more than those derived from oil. Yet development will have a found effect on the position of the countries that produce the main sources of energy.

While it is unlikely that country will become dependent upon coal imports as some nations have been on oil, the industrial countries should be able to take the Opec nose and countries such as Colombia, Chile and Mozambique will enter as important players in world trade.

Pearce Wright
Science Ed

Less power for the people.

Energy industry forecasts bleak future for industry.

THE TEN PRECARIOUS YEARS WHEN THE WEST WILL BE MOST VULNERABLE

ENERGY CRISIS—WHERE TOMORROW

Sun sets on Solar Energy

PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW ENERGY BILL THROWN OUT BY CONGRESS

THE TEN PRECARIOUS YEARS WHEN THE WEST WILL BE MOST VULNERABLE

ENERGY CRISIS—WHERE TOMORROW

Sun sets on Solar Energy

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS. COAL.

The bad news you can read in the newspapers any day of the week. It can best be summed up as: over the next twenty years our energy problems can only get worse.

Despite new discoveries like the North Sea, availability of oil for industrialised countries is certainly not going to increase, and will, in fact, diminish from now because of uncertainty about the Middle East — by far the biggest source of supply.

The good news, like most good news, hasn't received quite so much publicity. It is that Britain has coal reserves which, based on present mining techniques and present levels of production, will last for at least another three hundred years; with the improvements in technology that will undoubtedly come during that time, the reserves will last very much longer.

Where will your company be in 300 years time?

We are sure we don't have to remind you of the three words you can read in the newspapers almost any day of the week: Middle East crisis. We'll leave it to you to conjure up pictures of soaring oil prices, unreliable supplies and increasingly tight stock.

In fact, there is now no concrete argument for not installing coal fired boiler equipment, particularly if your company is planning to be around for some time.

Maybe even in 300 years time. And isn't that important?

Coal: be prepared to be surprised. There have been some very impressive advances in boiler technology, combustion, as well as methods of coal and ash handling.

The whole operation may be very different to how you imagine.

It's extremely efficient. It's now possible to operate in excess of 80% thermal efficiency with modern coal fired plants, which makes coal firing both very economic and competitive. It can be completely automatic with the modern coal and ash handling equipment now available. This permits coal fired boiler houses to be light, airy and clean.

And it's very up-to-date. Over the years extensive research and development programmes have been carried out. The most recent development is fluidised bed combustion.

This technique provides higher heat release rates, which means boiler sizes, and therefore capital costs, may be reduced. It also means that a wider range of coal can be burned and with combustion taking place at a temperature below the melting point of ash, boiler availability is greatly extended.

With all these benefits it seems a waste for industry to consume premium fuels like oil and gas when there is plentiful and more economic coal available.

Companies that can see beyond the next 20 years.

Many far sighted companies are using coal fired boilers already.

For example, John Sanders, Chief Engineer at Hotpoint says "We are experiencing fantastic savings whilst many around us are facing problems with other fuels. We selected coal as our main fuel because we had coal burning experience and we could see problems arising with other fuels."

Hotpoint have installed a completely new boiler house to provide space heating and process steam.

The new boiler house and its four multi-fuel boilers are fired by coal. Hotpoint have found it to be economic, modern, efficient and spotlessly clean.

The four new GWB Velox multi-fuel boilers burn weekly no more than 215/220 tonnes, which compares with the four old boilers total of around 500 tonnes.

The other savings, apart from a much reduced annual fuel bill, has been the reduction in manning levels. The whole system is virtually automatic.



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I would like some technical literature on modern industrial burning equipment. ☐

I would like one of your fuel engineers to visit my company. ☐

We are considering installing new industrial coal fired plant. ☐

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COAL—SUNSET'S SUCCESSOR

Companies
slipping into
the poverty
trap, page 25

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DM 2.1580, up 85 points

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Money
3 mth sterling 127.12
3 mth Euro \$ 17.17-17.18
6 mth Euro \$ 17.16-17.17

IN BRIEF

800 jobs to go in BL cutback at Cowley

BL Cars has told shop stewards that it must cut the 12,000-strong labour force at its two Cowley car plants by 800 as soon as possible to keep manufacturing in line with reduced demand.

There will be compulsory redundancies if insufficient volunteers come forward by the April deadline.

Production of the Ital, BL's best-selling family saloon, is to be cut from 1,500 a week to just over 1,000. Most of the redundancies are on the Ital body and assembly lines.

A BL spokesman said: "We have to keep our stock inventory in balance with recession-hit sales to protect the jobs of remaining employees."

Grindlays' profits fall
Profits of Grindlays Holdings, the quoted company which owns 51 per cent of Grindlays Bank, fell last year from £37.2m to £34.7m. After tax and extraordinary expenses, profits are down from £17.7m to £15.39m. The dividend for the year has been lifted from 5.35p gross a share to 5.9p. The board says that profitability was affected by the strength of sterling and higher provisions for bad debts.

£4m investment
BP Chemicals is to invest £4m in new plant for its Hythe Chemicals subsidiary, near Southampton, as part of the development of its business into smaller-volume, higher-value chemicals. Output of hydroxypropyl methacrylate, used in paints for the car industry, will be expanded. More than 200 jobs will be secured by the investment programme.

Escort output halted
Production of the new Escort has been halted for the third time in a week by unofficial action at the £125m Ford car plant at Halewood, on Merseyside. A total of 3,500 men in the body and assembly plants had to be sent home on Monday night after a walkout by six men in the body shop over a manning issue.

Port redundancies
The Dock Labour Board at Hull yesterday agreed to make application to the National Board for authority to seek up to 320 voluntary redundancies from the registered port labour force because of the serious labour surplus.

Berlei to close plant
Berlei, the brasserie makers, is to close its Portsmouth factory at the end of May with the loss of 200 jobs.

Foden pay-out
Creditors of Fodens, the Cheshire truck manufacturer which went into receivership last July, will get only 10p for every pound of the £20m owed to them, the liquidators announced yesterday.

Wall Street down
The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 966.02, down 11.97 on Wall Street yesterday. The S&P 500 exchange rate was 1.2136 while the £-SDR rate was 0.556342.

Britain accuses EEC partners of subsidizing energy prices

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 3

Britain today accused the French and West German governments of charging economically low gas and electricity prices to their manufacturers, thereby giving them a competitive advantage.

After a meeting here of European Community energy and industry ministers, Mr Norman Lamont, Britain's junior minister at the Department of Energy, said "we are not convinced that economic pricing of electricity is always being followed in other Community countries."

The European Commission is undertaking a comparative study of energy pricing policies in the EEC and is expected to report it to the ministers at their next meeting in June.

Mr Lamont said he hoped the Commission would "begin investigating some of the facts" straightaway and that he expected its report to identify price differences and explain the reasons for them.

There was a swift denial of the British charges from M. André Giraud, the French energy minister, who said: "I do not know where the British got this idea. In the grey area there are no price subsidies in France, and we have nothing whatever to fear from the Commission's report."

The exchanges came on the eve of the publication in Britain of a report by the National Economic Development Council (NEDC), which is expected to show that many British manufacturers are paying up to 40 per cent more for their electricity than their competitors in France and West Germany.

Mr Lamont said that Britain was not looking for harmonisation of prices, but rather an agreement that prices should be "based on actual costs and should be economic."



Mr Lamont: not convinced on European pricing.

He believed that the West Germans and French were, in effect, subsidizing their industries through artificially low electricity prices.

Ministers agreed to pursue work on a scheme for pooling surplus oil stocks so as to provide a reserve supply on which individual member states could draw if suddenly faced with a shortfall.

Under present rules, the EEC's crisis mechanism for oil sharing is only triggered if there is a 7 per cent shortfall in the Community's total supplies.

The idea behind the new scheme, in the words of Mr Lamont, is to enable the EEC to respond "in the grey area before the 7 per cent threshold is reached", and thus reduce the danger of panic buying by member states on the spot market, which pushes up prices.

The European Commission, together with national officials, is to supervise preparatory work on the oil bank scheme with a view to making detailed proposals at the June ministerial meeting.

US urged to cut high interest rates

From Frank Vogel

US Economics Correspondent
Citibank and other big American banks have cut their prime lending rates to 18 1/2 per cent from 19 per cent. However, other short-term rates moved up and it is these movements that are providing additional strength to the dollar in currency markets.

High American interest rates must be reduced because they are directly helping to push Europe into a recession, M. René Monory, the French economic minister, said. Mr Monory is in Washington this week for talks with the Reagan administration.

The rate for Federal funds was trading at about 16 1/2 per cent today. At this level there is still ample scope for banks to cut their prime rates further, but the banks are unlikely to move until they see more clearly just what short-term policies the Federal Reserve Board plans and how these will influence the rate for Federal funds.

The Fed may intervene to slow the rise in the Federal funds rate by adding reserves to the system. Such action would lead quite swiftly to further prime rate reductions.

Increasing numbers of analysts believe that the economy will move into recession because of the austere Fed policies of recent months. Declines seen in the money supply recently have been greater than the markets expected and quite possibly more than the Fed expected and may enable the Fed to add to reserves.

Latest figures for the week to February 18 show a decline in M1A on a seasonally adjusted annual basis of 2.1 per cent over 13 weeks previous, while M1B rose by only 1.3 per cent.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York added reserves to the market to halt the climb in the Fed funds rate today. This was the first action by the Fed since early January, but then today's rise in the Fed funds rate was most substantial.

Joint projects: Talks are well advanced between the Export Credits Guarantee Department and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry on a joint insurance agreement that would introduce flexibility into government financing of Anglo-Japanese projects in third countries (Derek Harris writes).

This was disclosed in London yesterday at the end of a two-day conference between the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) and a team of senior industrialists from member companies of the Japan Machinery Exporters' Association, aimed at fostering projects in third countries between British and Japanese companies.

Joint projects: Talks are well advanced between the Export Credits Guarantee Department and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry on a joint insurance agreement that would introduce flexibility into government financing of Anglo-Japanese projects in third countries (Derek Harris writes).

Shareholders in textiles group to pay £410,000

By Rosemary Unsworth

A group of shareholders including the chairman of Robert Kitchen Taylor, a textiles and property group, are paying the company £410,000 in settlement of a claim started in 1979 by two other shareholders.

A High Court action was started by two independent shareholders on behalf of the company after Mr W. S. Bertram, the former chairman, left Robert Kitchen Taylor and settled a debt he owed the group by the transfer of 750,000 ordinary shares.

The shares were then placed by a trustee at 10p each, the par value, with 10 individual shareholders, including Mr E. G. Libby, the present chairman, and Mr D. E. Courtney and Mr T. B. Nightingale, the joint managing directors.

At 10p, the price represented a discount on the group's share

Pound climbs back against dollar to close more than 2.5 cents up

By Frances Williams

The pound made an astonishing comeback on the foreign exchange markets yesterday, wiping out the whole of yesterday's fall against the dollar and gaining strongly on continental currencies.

Sterling climbed by more than 2.5 cents to end the day at \$2.2060, and its effective exchange rate index, measured against a basket of leading currencies, rose 0.8 to 99.5.

Dealers said that the pound had been the principal beneficiary of a weaker dollar, reflecting a downward revision in expectations on the size of a cut in minimum lending rate in next week's Budget away from 3 per cent or more towards 2 per cent.

The pound's recovery may come as a disappointment to the Government and to industry, to whom last month's slide of more than 5 per cent against its trade weighted currency basket portended some relief in terms of international competitiveness.

Sterling's fall in January could well be reflected in the

figures on the United Kingdom's gold and foreign currency reserves published yesterday. These showed that the reserves rose by \$40m (£18m) in the month to stand at a record \$28,434m (£12,906m). But after taking account of additional public sector borrowing under the Exchange Cover Scheme the underlying change was marginally down, by \$4m, the first fall for more than a year.

The underlying change includes Bank of England intervention in the foreign exchange markets as well as other transactions. Although the Bank's avowed policy is to intervene in the markets only to smooth fluctuations, the balance of intervention will have been to reduce the reserves by using foreign currency to buy sterling.

The dollar's weakness yesterday was attributed by some dealers to the test case in prime rates by United States banks, but others said these moves were expected and did not alter their confidence that American interest rates will remain high. Eurodollar deposit rates were generally easier.

Fears that a possible 2 per cent cut in MLR might not be enough prompted further nervous selling of leading industrial shares in the stock market yesterday.

Sentiment was not helped by Unilever's decision to reduce its dividend payment to United Kingdom shareholders because of the currency discrepancy. Unilever Ltd shares initially as investors "switched" into the NV shares. The price eventually closed \$p lower at 475p.

Falls were also seen in ICI down 2p at 248p, Beechams 1p to 196p, Tube Investments 6p to 198p and GEC 3p to 645p. However, cheap buying at the lower levels saw most prices close off the bottom with the FT Index 5.2 lower at 996.2, having been down at 1 pm.

Government securities also saw nervous offerings with falls of 1/2 recorded in some cases. Investors appeared unsettled by reports that the Government was unlikely to achieve the public sector spending cuts for 1981-82 originally hoped for.

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Financial Editor, page 25

Monopolies inquiry on Davy bid

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

A £143m takeover bid by Enserch Corporation, a Texas utility and oil exploration group, for Britain's largest process plant contractor, Davy Corporation, has been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

This decision by Mr John Biffen, the new Trade Minister, naturally was welcomed by Davy and accepted as inevitable by the Enserch camp.

Enserch, which Enserch decides to make its case for allowing the takeover before the commission—as it almost certainly will—the investigation has to be completed within six months.

The grounds for making the reference under the Fair Trading Act are that the assets of the combined grouping would exceed £15m, but the Office of Fair Trade had in mind potential employment and balance of payments consequences.

The OFT apparently was impressed by Davy's case that its technology was superior to that of Enserch; that it was an important buyer of British engineering equipment; and that it had gained valuable Eastern bloc contracts which might not be so readily available to a United States company.

This is the second important reference Mr Biffen has made to the commission within a week. Last Friday he asked for an investigation into Cable and Wireless company moved a step closer yesterday.

After a lengthy debate, the standing Commons committee dealing with the Telecommunications Bill approved the clause which will enable the Secretary of State for Industry to sell off shares.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry said that he expected to make a Parliamentary statement detailing the Government's disposal plans as soon as consultations

Strong pound forces Unilever dividend cut

By Richard Allen

Unilever, the United Kingdom part of the huge Anglo-Dutch foods group, has been forced to cut its dividend because of the strength of sterling.

The final payment has been reduced by almost 8 per cent, to leave total dividends for the year down by almost 5 per cent to 32.7p gross. The move surprised the stock market and Unilever's shares fell 15p at one point before recovering to close \$p lower at 475p.

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Financial Editor, page 25

C & W shares sale moves nearer

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent
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Financial Editor, page 25

Japan may abandon export code

Tokyo, March 3.—Japan is ready to drop its restraints on providing low-cost loan subsidies for exporting plant and equipment.

The Government is close to formal agreement on a number of steps which would permit Japanese plant exporters to take advantage of government aid combined with Export-Import Bank financing to secure a greater share of overseas contracts.

The Government's move means it has decided to abandon the guidelines covering export credits that had been set by the OECD, ending its previous policy to adhere to the rules despite the absence of a formal agreement.

The move follows the collapse in Paris in December of a "gentlemen's agreement" placing limits on low-interest loans to win large projects

overseas, especially in Third World countries.

Japanese business has pressured the Tokyo Government into easing regulations which prohibited the mixing of Ex-Im bank financing with soft loans as low as 3.25 per cent from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

The Government is expected to promote the use of the mixed credits by Japanese companies bidding on projects worth less than \$100m. Previously the subsidies could be used only for plants costing more than that.

Japanese companies have complained they are losing business to European competitors because other countries are more willing to provide cheaper credit to promote the efforts of their plant exporters. The Government is likely to announce its plans to boost the

economy some time in mid-March and the export promotion steps will be a key part of the package.—Reuter.

Joint projects: Talks are well advanced between the Export Credits Guarantee Department and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry on a joint insurance agreement that would introduce flexibility into government financing of Anglo-Japanese projects in third countries (Derek Harris writes).

This was disclosed in London yesterday at the end of a two-day conference between the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) and a team of senior industrialists from member companies of the Japan Machinery Exporters' Association, aimed at fostering projects in third countries between British and Japanese companies.

Shareholders in textiles group to pay £410,000

By Rosemary Unsworth

A group of shareholders including the chairman of Robert Kitchen Taylor, a textiles and property group, are paying the company £410,000 in settlement of a claim started in 1979 by two other shareholders.

A High Court action was started by two independent shareholders on behalf of the company after Mr W. S. Bertram, the former chairman, left Robert Kitchen Taylor and settled a debt he owed the group by the transfer of 750,000 ordinary shares.

The shares were then placed by a trustee at 10p each, the par value, with 10 individual shareholders, including Mr E. G. Libby, the present chairman, and Mr D. E. Courtney and Mr T. B. Nightingale, the joint managing directors.

At 10p, the price represented a discount on the group's share

EEC ministers agree plan for competitive steel industry

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 3

EEC member states agreed tonight on the broad outlines of a new strategy for eliminating surplus production capacity in the Community's crisis-ridden steel industry, and making it internationally competitive again.

In a statement issued after a special meeting here, EEC ministers agreed to reach a "voluntary" agreement, they are going to be in very, very deep trouble indeed. But if they want to commit suicide, either individually or collectively, it is up to them."

West Germans made clear that in no circumstances would they agree to any extension beyond June of the existing compulsory production controls.

In the absence of a voluntary agreement, a return to what M. André Giraud, the French minister, described as "cut-throat anarchy" would appear unavoidable.

The mood of the meeting was further reinforced by a threat from Dr Otto Lambdorff, the German economics minister,

that his government might impose countervailing duties on steel imports from other EEC countries which continued to subsidise production.

Earlier a human dimension had been introduced into the remote and clinical deliberations of the Council of Ministers when Welsh workers threatened with redundancy staged a protest outside the conference chamber, and sang "Sospan Fach", the battle hymn of Welsh rugby fans.

There were a dozen members of the works council of Dupont's steel works at Llanelli—which is faced with closure and loss of 1,091 jobs in two weeks' time—tried to get into the meeting to present a request for financial aid to the Council.

Inside EEC industry and economics ministers, under the chairmanship of Mr Gilsbert Van Aardenne of Holland, were discussing the plan for a coordinated reduction in steel produc-

tion capacity and the phasing-out of state subsidies to the industry.

As part of the proposed plan, the European Commission would also tighten up its monitoring of aid to the industry to ensure that no assistance would be granted "to preserve obsolete capacities or to enterprises which do not make necessary efforts to restructure by reducing net capacities."

The Commission would also use its powers under the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty to grant loans for steel investment programmes "as long as projects achieve a satisfactory degree of self-reliance, and would fine steel firms found guilty of unfair price-cutting."

As the meeting dragged on into the evening, the Llanelli workers were still waiting for a promised meeting with Van Aardenne. They did, however, succeed in getting a letter sent in.

In the workers described their plan as "one of the most modern, efficient and competitive in Europe" and said the speed of its proposed closure was "unprecedented."

He did not say what proportion of shares the Government envisaged selling, but argued that mixed ownership could "enable the company to tap funds for its own expansion."

Answering what he described as a "rather cheeky" amendment that any disposal should be delayed until at least January 1985 to allow "time to adjust," Mr Baker denied that the sale of shares would cause any damage.

Specifically, the Welsh steelworkers want the Council of Ministers to approve a scheme of temporary aid that would keep the plant in operation until the economic situation improved.

The Llanelli men say that, although the Dupont plant is three times more efficient than the British Steel equivalent, the corporation has been able to use its state subsidy to market its products at artificially low prices, undercutting the private sector.

Cost disadvantage, page 24

PRICE CHANGES

Rises					
Boustead	4p to 142p	Schroders	5p to 360p		
Electrolux	23p to 935p	Sun Alliance	12p to 804p		
Kliruss	20p to 531p	Ultramar	8p to 495p		
Jordan	5p to 91p	Unitich	4p to 248p		
Samuel N	5p to 255p				
Falls					
Anglo Am Corp	15p to 581p	Imp Cont Gas	15p to 232p		
Davy Corp	14p to 148p	Nigata Exploit	15p to 305p		
Ferranti	10p to 945p	Phillips Lamps	20p to 347p		
Gerrard & Nat	8p to 313p	UC Investment	15p to 450p		
Rusky Oil	10p to 635p	Unilever	8p to 475p		

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank		Bank	Bank
	buys	sells		buys	sells
Australia \$	1.95	1.87	Norway Kr	12.50	11.85
Austria Sch	35.20	33.00	Portugal Esc	127.00	121.00
Belgium Fr	81.75	77.75	South Africa R	2.05	1.91
Danish Kr	2.69	2.60	Spain Ptas	194.50	185.50
Deutsche M	15.45	14.65	Sweden Kr	10.69	10.14
Finland Mk	9.40	8.90	Switzerland Fr	4.51	4.28
France Fr	11.48	10.95	USA \$	2.32	2.16
Germany DM	4.90	4.66	Yugoslavia Dnr	83.00	77.50
Greece Dr	117.00	114.00			
Hongkong \$	12.05	11.45			
Ireland P	1.33	1.27			
Italy Lit	2360.00	2250.00			
Japan Yen	402.00	455.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.41	5.15			

New study suggests revenue loss smaller than widely supposed

Black economy richer in fiction than in fact

There can be few people who have not had some experience of the "black" economy, or what the late Lord Armstrong, the former head of the Treasury, used to call the "Black and Decker" economy.

Similar anecdotes about "black" transactions can be heard in any public bar, whether they be about the man who services cars on a Sunday and insists on cash, the hairdresser who does home perms in the evening, or the electrician who re-wires houses at the weekend. If the income derived from these activities is not reported, in order to avoid tax, then they constitute part of the black economy.

The prevalence of the anecdotes might suggest that such activity is very considerable

and growing rapidly. But, as the authors of a new study of the subject say: "The black economy can be large enough to yield a rich vein of anecdotes without necessarily being a phenomenon of quantitative significance."

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

مكتبة من الأصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Unilever's unkind cut

Unilever's British wing has joined ICI in jolting the market with a final dividend cut which reduces the total payment for last year by almost 5 per cent to 32.7 per cent. The difference, though, is that Unilever's shareholders are victims not of recession but of the unprecedented strength of sterling against the Dutch guilder.

Unilever NV has in fact increased its dividend by almost 13 per cent after a year in which the group's recession-proof characteristics have been demonstrated by a 4 per cent improvement in profits to £628m pre-tax before currency adjustments.

On this basis, the fourth quarter has proved particularly good with a 13 per cent jump to £142m although comparisons are judged by the EEC buffer dumping debacle in the corresponding period.

Adjusting for sterling's 20 per cent appreciation, however, the pre-tax return falls to 5567.7m and British shareholders are left with scant reward in dividend terms.

Under Unilever's equalization agreement, maintaining the United Kingdom payment would have meant increasing the NV dividend by almost a fifth. That the board could not countenance on trading grounds even without moral pressure from the Dutch Government for sobriety.

At least Unilever is well aware of the problem and is looking at possible adjustments to equalization to enable more flexibility in the future. It is difficult to see, however, how such adjustments could be made without opening up all sorts of arbitrage problems.

Meanwhile, Unilever's fourth-quarter trading has followed the pattern of previous months with good results in margarine, oil milling and detergents, offset by severe problems in chemicals, paper and plastics and packaging.

An annual volume gain of 2.5 per cent has been achieved with further pressure on margins and hopes of this pressure abating in the current year could be fairly slight.

Even so, hopes of a fairly sharp turn as Europe comes out of recession should ensure the shares stabilize after yesterday's 5p fall to 475p, where a near 7 per cent yield offers a surprising 1 point premium over the all-share index.

Shell shares, meanwhile, fell 6p to 418p yesterday on the view that that group will be caught in the same equalization trap when it announces its dividend next week.

Grindlays A speculative background

For several months now the market has placed its faith in an eventual bid for Grindlays Holdings or Grindlays Bank or both rather than on any fundamentals.

And just as well for present shareholders, some of whom seem to have jumped aboard ahead of yesterday's results, for without the speculation the shares of Holdings, the only



Mr Nigel Robson, chairman of Grindlays.

ones quoted, would have been a great deal lower than today. It is even questionable that even with a bid whether, at current levels, there is much to go for anyway.

The belief that sooner or later the knotty relationship between Lloyds Bank and Citibank will be untangled is, however, likely to prove true sooner or later. Lloyds Bank has a 41.4 per cent share in Grindlays Holdings which in turn owns, as practically its only asset, a 51 per cent share in the bank. The 51 other per cent are held by the American Citibank. Put another way, Lloyds Bank need not bury until a deal it likes comes along.

The 1980 results, announced yesterday,

are below the worst City expectations. Pre-tax profits of Holdings—they are virtually the same for the bank—turn out at £37.1m as against £34.7m in 1979. Most of the fall was in the second half when profits slipped by over £2m. Although the dividend is fractionally lifted it is nothing like the increases made by the clearers.

Grindlays it is true uses the dollar as its main currency and last year's strength of sterling contributed to the fall. This year a weaker sterling should help the group to show higher profits. The other major change has been in specific provisions for bad debts which at £3.5m are nearly £2m higher than in 1979 when a substantial debt recovery took place.

This year's results should be better. After the raising of £100m of new subordinate loan stocks to replace £60m of old ones Grindlays can expand faster its business. But even so on fundamental merits the shares at 175p yielding only 3.2 per cent, nearly a third of the yield offered by some clearers, and a fully taxed PE ratio of 6.8, half as much as the clearers, look expensive on any view but that of a generous bid.

Enserch/Davy The inevitable reference

A reference to the Monopolies Commission of the Enserch bid for Davy Corporation appeared inevitable from the outset. Davy's case for independence has been that it is the remaining pure process plant contractor in Britain; that its value to the United Kingdom engineering sector is greater than it appears on the surface in that it is a substantial buyer of equipment, and that Enserch is a relatively unknown and, perhaps, opportunistic, United States bidder whose motives and capacity to absorb an important company like Davy were worthy of investigation. All this Davy carried the argument.

So the bid will not be resolved until the autumn. The Commission has six months to report and its investigation, taking it into extremely technical areas, promises to be one of the most complex undertaken.

Enserch has to consider whether it will take its case to the Commission, but it knew the score before it started this one and it can be assumed that it will maintain its interest in acquiring Davy, a prospect which will sustain Davy's share price—down 14p to 148p yesterday—in the face of pretty dismal trading prospects.

AAH Coming through the recession

AAH has kept profits moving ahead for the past thirteen years but this time it will be tough and go whether it can beat last year's £9.1m before tax. In the nine months to the end of 1980 pre-tax profits were just up from £6.46m to £6.49m and earnings showed a similar small increase to £2.9m, thanks to lower minority interests offsetting the proportionately higher tax charge under the new stock relief rules.

The weather and its impact on solid fuel demand will probably decide whether AAH does slightly better or worse for the full year. But the one-tench increase in the interim dividend, which seems likely to be repeated with the final, suggests that AAH is fairly confident.

Unfashionable though conglomerates may be, it is AAH's spread of interests which are enabling it to weather the recession so well. Road haulage, engineering and builders' supplies have slipped back by varying degrees and trading profits from fuel oil more than halved from £1.6m to £0.7m, although comparison is with an exceptional period when margins were inflated by oil shortages.

But nearly doubled profits from pharmaceutical wholesaling where margins have recovered sharply and a £1.4m rise to £3.7m from solid fuels have more than made up the difference. The increase in solid fuels included large stock profits on the domestic side but even so the prospects here—the area of the business which AAH had been diversifying away following the oil crises of the past decade. But AAH's failure to win Renwick Fuel was a disappointment.

Up 5p to 150p where the likely yield is 7 per cent, the shares are sound enough, given the good record and solid prospects.

One of the problems which the Chancellor will have to tackle at some point—and could tackle in the Budget—is the "tax exhaustion" now besetting many British companies.

The complaint arises not because companies pay too much tax, but because they are liable to too little. They are liable to so little because they are making next to nothing in the way of profits, and in consequence the normal investment incentives have, in many cases, no immediate value. So tax exhaustion is at once one of the causes and one of the symptoms of British industrial anaemia.

It manifests itself in the form of unused and unusable tax reliefs and allowances. Of these there are four that cause particular concern.

In the first place there are the first-year allowances, designed to encourage investment in new plant and machinery. Secondly, there is stock appreciation relief, recently the subject of new proposals from the Inland Revenue, but still basically designed to relieve companies of the need to pay tax on increases in stock values caused by inflation.

Then there are interest charges, normally an allowable expense "above the line" and, finally, rather different in principle though not in effect, there is the relief, against the full year's tax bill, for advance corporation tax (ACT) paid during the year on dividend distributions.

Under normal circumstances a company can set off against its taxable profits expenditure on new plant and machinery, on maintaining the same level of stocks and on paying its

interest charges, thereby cutting its tax bill, boosting its cash flow and reducing the effective cost of such expenditure.

At present, cash flow considerations are irrelevant (except in the case of ACT), because in most cases there is no tax to pay anyway. But effective cost of such expenditure could have very nearly doubled.

In a company with taxable profits against which to set its interest charges, effectively knocks the charge down by the rate of corporation tax. A company with no taxable profits has to pay the same amount to the bank but saves no tax on the debt.

The Confederation of British Industry's tax committee, reflecting on the spread of this anomaly, produced an amendment to last year's Finance Bill proposing that the banks should charge interest not of the rate of corporation tax and that they in turn should suffer no tax on the income. But the scheme, which was similar to the "Business Start" scheme which Barclays subsequently produced

for small companies—died the death before the Bill became law.

While the CBI still pursues the idea, it does so somewhat tentatively. This owes something to uncertainty about the clearing banks' response, because such a scheme might supersede their leasing business, which has flourished in part because it provides a way for tax exhausted companies to obtain the benefits of first-year allowances without actually buying for themselves.

But the tentative approach owes still more perhaps to a gloomy if realistic assumption that the size and intractability of the problem is likely to deter the Chancellor from doing anything about tax exhausted companies at all.

The size of the problem is indeed formidable. Largely thanks to the introduction of stock relief in 1974 very few companies now pay any main-stream corporation tax at all; and, while there are ways and means of using allowances when there are no taxable profits to set them off against, they are so tightly restricted, to prevent tax avoidance, that most companies have no option but to leave their unused allowances to pile up.

They can, of course, be carried forward indefinitely, except in the case of stock relief, which under last November's proposals from the Inland Revenue is subject to a six-year time limit. It is estimated that there are now some £30,000m of unused allowances being carried forward to set off against taxable profits in the future.

That is a problem for two of the interested parties. First, it is a problem for the Chancellor, who not only has to live with the fact that the yield on corporation tax is very low at the moment, but must also recognize that it is likely to continue low when taxable profits start to recover.

It is possible to interpret the six-year time limit on carrying forward stock relief as the first salvo in a battle to limit the capacity of companies to use tomorrow the allowances that they cannot use today.

Secondly, it is a problem for the companies involved, who could ideally do with a tax refund now rather than allowances later. Given that this one is almost certainly a non-starter, they could at least do with some action on ACT.

Unlike the other reliefs and allowances, which may not help

cash flow when there is no tax to set them off against, or at least do not reduce it, payment of advance corporation tax actually cuts the amount of cash at the disposal of companies. When it subsequently emerges that there is insufficient main-stream corporation tax payable against which to offset the tax already paid (which, it is estimated, happens in respect of one third of all payments, worth some £600m a year), it is no consolation that the damage done to cash flow when times are hard may be remedied as things grow easier over the longer term.

For companies with no taxable profits, however, must be more obvious than for most that in the longer term we shall all be dead.

With most of the obvious solutions to the ACT problem (eg, cutting the rate, subject to complications, it looks at present as if even this small mercy is likely to be denied to the corporate sector. In fact, the Chancellor's most likely to shelve the whole question of tax exhaustion, possibly with a reference to the long forecast and still receding Green Paper on the reform of corporation tax.

For those companies that survive the recession, of course, the whole question will sort itself out in time. But the time required may be the longer, because except in the case of those companies which are making taxable profits already, the normal tax incentives for investment have no immediate value. And some companies will not be able to survive so long.

Russian economy: a determination to muddle through

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet prime minister (right), says that the task is as monumental as the entire industrialization of the country under Stalin



were attractive and brought pleasure to people's homes.

For the first time, the Russians have given consumer goods priority over heavy industry, reflecting the increasingly acute problem of unsatisfied consumer demand. Food supplies are also to be improved under a new crash food programme, but Mr Tikhonov admitted that the tasks facing Soviet agriculture which now swallows almost a third of all Soviet investment, were "very formidable".

Cutting waste was the first priority—especially of such things as grain, potatoes, vegetables, meat and milk.

The Soviet leaders gave a warning that the state could not afford to go on pouring huge sums of money into agriculture without a better return on its investment.

The congress heard the expected warnings to Soviet workers to work harder and more responsibly. Breaches of discipline could not be tolerated.

The Soviet leaders gave strong hints that in future wages would be tied more closely to output—those who worked harder would be able to earn more, while idlers would have their wages cut.

Mr Brezhnev admitted that in spite of all this the general outlook for the Soviet economy was not very promising. Part of the reason lay with the world economic situation and spiralling prices, which he said were making themselves felt in the domestic economy. There were also too many ineffectual and wasteful projects, and the force of inertia left over from the time when it was more important for the Soviet economy to expand quantitatively than qualitatively.

But there was apparently no need for any economic reform: the party's economic strategy, Mr Brezhnev asserted, was correct. He and Mr Tikhonov gave glowing promises of what would be achieved in the next five years—an average wage rise of 14 per cent, more roads, railways, housing, social amenities, consumer goods, higher pensions, better medical facilities, new farm holdings and pensions and better social services.

The Soviet leaders rejected western "slender" that the economy was in a state of crisis. To avoid the embarrassment of being pinned down to long-term promises, the congress deflected all references in the 1961 party programme, drawn up under Nikita Khrushchev, to catching up and overtaking the West. The Soviet leadership explained that it was "impossible and inappropriate" to foretell particulars. Communism might eventually guarantee the good life—but not just yet, it seemed.

Michael Binyon

Business Diary: What welcome for Walters? • TGWU's Bevin boy

A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house, says the gospel according to St Matthew.

Alan Walters, the British prophet of monetarism, has returned from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, in the United States, to great honour in his own country as spiritual counsellor to Mrs Thatcher.

In July, Walters proceeds to further honour, if not in his own house then in his own home town, Leicester, when he is to be awarded an honorary doctorate of his alma mater, the local university.

However, such is the esteem in which Thatcherism is held in those parts that the award will be conferred over, if not the dead, then the considerably disgruntled bodies of members of the Labour-controlled city council, the university students' union and members of the university council itself.

A motion deploring the lack of involvement of the university council in proffering the award is to be tabled by non-officials at the next meeting three weeks today.

The main support for Walters comes from the vice-chancellor, Maurice Shock. The opposition comes from a coalition of those disliking Shock, the cuts in university spending and the award of honours to the politically contentious.



Rachel Terry.

Few people make the switch between local government and the City and it is particularly true of a woman in head for what is still very much a man's world. None the less, Rachel Terry is giving up her job as head of the Greater London Council's borrowing section for the arcane world of sterling money brokers Butler Till and it certainly looks like local government's loss and the City's gain.

At the GLC Mrs Terry, a 33-year-old maths and philosophy graduate from Nottingham University, has managed £2,500m of borrowing at a time of bur-

geoning council spending. Every year she has to refinance £400m-500m of that total somewhere in the City and, as Butler Till is one of the specialists in local authority finance, it will have had every opportunity of sizing Mrs Terry up.

Evidently, the money brokers liked what they saw and Mrs Terry is being recruited to the "specialist finance team"—a sort of four-strong think tank which aims to see whether practices in the various money markets can be transplanted one to the other.

Starting off as a computer specialist at the GLC Mrs Terry moved into the finance department almost by accident, when she recommended that the best value for money that could be given by the "value for money unit" set up as a result of the Leggitt Committee on local authority finance was for it to be disbanded.

The only job in finance at her level that did not require an accountancy qualification was to look after the GLC's overdraft. She is best known in local authority circles as a joint secretary of the Treasury Committee on local authority borrowing, where she has been dealing with the twin problems of lengthening debt and of improving the marketability of local authority loans.

Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers (more than two million members), is going into publishing in quite a big way this month.

On Friday it is to publish a biography of its founder, Ernest Bevin, and later this month the union is to help publish a children's book, presumably published in pursuance of the Jesuit maxim "Catch 'em young", entitled "What is a Union?" by Althea Braithwaite. TGWU general secretary, Moss Evans, will speak at its launch.

The Bevin biography marks the centenary of Bevin's birth next Saturday and is by—wait

for it—not a union man, but Mark Stephens, who until recently was an official of the West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association.

Stephens approached the TGWU with the idea of writing the book after seeing a letter in *The Times* from Evans's predecessor, Jack Jones, about the need to celebrate in fitting manner the centenary of Bevin's birth.

* Ernest Bevin: Unskilled Labourer and World Statesman, by Mark Stephens; TGWU, 95p. * What is a Union? By Althea Braithwaite; Dinosaur Publications, 70p paperback, £1.85 hardback.



"Times change. I can remember when minimum lending rate—Bank rate, as it was—stood at 2 per cent for year after year. Now they are talking of cutting it by at least 3 per cent!"

Hollywood

Ronald Reagan having superseded him, they had now left to join Wilmer & Pickering, which is where I came in.

There will be at least one dissenting voice today when Lorrho shareholders gather to approve their group's proposed takeover of House of Fraser—Fraser's managing director William Crossan, who owns 1,510 Lorrho shares, acquired when Lorrho bought Scottish and Universal Investments.

Ross Davies

WINTRUST LIMITED

Interim Statement for Six Months ended 30th September, 1980

	6 months to 30th Sept 1980	6 months to 30th Sept 1979	12 months to 31st March 1980
Group profit before taxation	781,720	705,656	1,517,855
Estimated taxation	315,300	277,171	605,943
Group profit after taxation	466,420	428,485	911,912

* Half year pre-tax profit at record level.

* 2nd Interim ordinary dividend increased by 10%.

* Pre-tax profit for full year expected to reach highest level ever achieved by the Group.

Interim Accounts available from The Secretary, Wintrust Limited, Imperial House, Dominion Street, London EC2M 2SA. Telephone 01-920 0031



£822m Italy ships deal with Iraq

Export authorization has finally been given by the Italian Government for a \$1,800m (£822m) deal whereby Financieri, the state-owned shipbuilding group, will supply Iraq with a fleet of 11 warships for the Gulf.

A Financieri official said companies in the group will build four "lupo" class frigates, six corvettes of 600 tons, a support vessel of the Stroma class, and a floating dock able to take ships up to 8,000 to 10,000 tons.

The contract has been under negotiation for more than a year. At one time the United States vetoed the supply of the 2,500-ton missile launching frigates because their gas turbine engines are made by Fiat under licence from General Electric, and Iraq was then considered to be in the Soviet sphere of influence.

Liquefaction deal

Mitsui SRC (solvent refined coal) Development Company said in Tokyo that it has signed a contract in Melbourne with CSR of Australia jointly to study the possibility of building a coal liquefaction plant in Victoria State.

S Korea exports

South Korea's exports totalled \$2,836m (£1,255.5m) in the first two months of this year, up 22.6 per cent from a year ago and 13.8 per cent of this year's export goal of \$20,500m.

Canada fuel prices up

The price of petrol and home heating oil in Canada has been raised by half a cent a litre. The increase was imposed to defray the cost of higher crude oil imports.

£298m coal project

A West German delegation will start talks with United States officials in Washington on March 3 on Germany's stake in a \$1,400m (£298m) coal liquefaction project.

Japanese steel trade

Japan's steel exports fell 12.7 per cent in January, from the year before to 1,722 million metric tons, a 37.3 per cent drop from the previous month.

Assets and liabilities of the Bank of England as indicating extent of intervention

Checking on the Bank of England

Each month, when the figures for the United Kingdom's gold and foreign currency reserves are published, they are eagerly scanned by City observers anxious to detect to what extent the Bank of England has been intervening in the foreign exchange markets.

This happens despite the Government's insistence that it has no exchange rate target and that the Bank intervenes solely to smooth excessive short-term fluctuations. The Treasury has also said that the extent of intervention cannot be deduced from the published reserves figures.

But the existence and scale of intervention is still regarded as significant. The City is interested in clues to the authorities' view on the exchange rate and is also concerned about the effect of intervention on the domestic money supply.

If, for example, the Bank of England tries to prevent the pound from rising, it must sell pounds in exchange for foreign currency. The foreign currency goes to increase the reserves; the pounds sold may find their way into the bank deposits of United Kingdom residents. To the extent that they do, the main measure of money supply, sterling M3, will rise.

The so-called "underlying" change in the official reserves is conventionally taken to indicate the extent of Bank of England intervention. This is arrived at by taking out of the actual change in reserves

borrowings and repayments to the International Monetary Fund, foreign currency borrowing by the Government and public authorities under the Exchange Control Scheme, and revaluations and certain other changes.

In total, these converted an actual net addition to reserves of about £2,000m in 1980 into an underlying addition of only £1,400m.

This underlying change reflects not only any Bank of England intervention in the foreign exchange market but also the Bank's transactions for customers (other central banks, the IMF, foreign government monetary institutions), the Government's foreign transactions (for example, for defence or aid to developing countries) interest payments and receipts on government loans, and the interest earned by investing the reserves.

The Bank insists that market intervention is confined solely to smoothing excessive fluctuations and amounts to no more than around £5m to £10m a day. Nevertheless, last year when the pound was rising strongly the intervention was heavily in one direction, which would have boosted the reserves (and the money supply) to some extent.

Details of customer transactions are not published, nor are government transactions, interest payments or receipts on loans. But these last categories are likely to involve net outflows of foreign

exchange, perhaps of the order of £500m to £1,000m.

This leaves interest on invested reserves. One quarter of the reserves are held in gold, the remainder in foreign currencies and IMF Special Drawing Rights. Where precisely the invested reserves are held is not published; but there is no reason to believe that the investments are substantially different from those in which other governments choose to hold their sterling reserves.

The total exchange reserves held in sterling by other central banks comprises half in Government stocks, and half in short-term investments such as bank deposits (37 per cent) and Treasury Bills (13 per cent).

On the assumption that the reserve holdings of convertible currencies and SDRs earn interest at 10 per cent, the total amount of interest accruing to the reserves would be around £800m to £900m a year. (Most of the United Kingdom's holdings of convertible currencies are likely to be in dollars, and the bulk is owned by other governments' debt, such as United States Treasury Bills.)

Spotting the extent of intervention among the numerous unpublished transactions which go to make up the underlying change in the reserves each month is thus well nigh impossible.

Frances Williams

Expansion slows for banks

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

International banking activity continued to expand strongly in the third quarter of 1980, but there was no further growth in the Eurosterling markets after the sharp rise in the first half of 1980.

Figures released by the Bank for International Settlements yesterday indicated that the external assets of reporting banks grew by just under \$50,000m in the three months to September 30, roughly the same rate (at constant exchange rates) as in the previous quarter.

After netting out interbank transactions, however, third quarter growth was somewhat slower, at about \$35,000m compared with \$45,000m, but still representing an annualised growth rate of some 20 per cent.

A principal reason for this rather slower rate of growth was the ending of certain monetary restrictions in the United States and the United Kingdom. American credit restrictions, introduced during the spring, were lifted. This led to a fall in the demand for finance from offshore sources.

Similarly, in the United Kingdom, the ending of the banking "corset" led to a reversal of an earlier trend that had seen increased recourse to Euro-finance by the United Kingdom non-bank sector.

Steel report warning on competitive costs

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The Government has been urged in a report to eliminate the present cost disadvantages suffered by British steel producers compared with their European competitors.

The report also stresses that withdrawal of support would have disastrous consequences for the United Kingdom economy.

In a detailed report covering the cost competitiveness of the European steel industries, the British Iron and Steel Consortium Council said that over the six years to March 1980, British Steel Corporation's costs were estimated to have risen by £1,500m, equivalent to £14 a tonne of steel produced.

This cost disadvantage resulted from price controls, a ban on closure of plants which had been scheduled to be phased out, redundancy costs borne by the state or insurance funds, and higher United Kingdom coking coal and energy costs.

The BRISCC said that roughly half of the government funds provided to British Steel during the six-year period, totalling £3,870m, might be regarded as compensation for those increased costs.

In its report, published as EEC ministers met in Brussels to consider the steel industry's crisis and the phasing out of state aid, the BRISCC said that

it was vital that British producers should be able to match the partly government-funded investment of their European competitors.

The report said that government policies must take account of the extent to which Continental steel companies' costs were met by their governments or insurance companies and stressed that against the background of European coking coal prices being held down to world market levels, new coal import restrictions must not place the United Kingdom users at a competitive disadvantage.

Last night in London, Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, met the Conservative Industry Committee of backbench MPs to discuss the Government's decision last week to pump a further £800m into the steel corporation over the next 15 months. The MPs expressed reservations at the scale of the taxpayers' commitment to the corporation.

After the meeting, Mr Michael Grylls, the committee chairman, said that he planned to ask the Industry Secretary to publish the performance criteria which the recently announced monitoring committee will use to base its assessment of the scale of payments to be made retrospectively to Lazard Freres, the American investment bank which Mr Ian MacGregor left to take over the chairmanship of British Steel.

Private rail freight confidence

By Michael Bailly
Transport Correspondent

Private sector involvement in British Rail's freight business, which represents investment worth around £500m, is expected to rise sharply over the next decade despite the present poor performance.

Private wagon operators, whose 18,000-vehicle fleet carries about a third of all BR freight, are looking beyond the recession and forecasting substantial growth in rail traffic in aggregates, chemicals, and general merchandise. They also expect a rise of over 50 per cent in their share of the larger market.

Mr Michael Barclay, chairman of the Private Wagon Federation whose Railfreight 81 exhibition opened at Olympia, London, yesterday, believes that BR's own freight forecast of a rise from 150 million to 182 million tonnes by 1986 is too pessimistic in the light of possible problems for road hauliers.

"Fuel costs are going to rise very sharply for road transport on top of restrictions on drivers' hours," he pointed out. "At the same time, big gains in productivity are being made in rail freight through bigger, more efficient wagons combined with closer operating control."

The private fleet is already noticeably more productive than BR's own 150,000-wagon fleet, carrying over 30 per cent of the traffic with only 13 per cent of the numbers. This he attributes to bigger, newer wagons, and more effective movement control.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarifying the Lloyd's Bill

From The Deputy Chairman of Lloyd's

Sir, I was concerned to read Lord Napier and Eddick's letter (March 3) suggesting that members of Lloyd's were kept ignorant of the terms of the Bill now before Parliament. A copy of the proposed Bill was sent to all members of Lloyd's on October 6 together with their admission cards for the Albert Hall meeting on November 4. Nor was this the first opportunity for members to consider the terms of the Bill since a draft Bill (very similar to the final version) was sent to all members as part of the Fisher report in June last year. I may now comment briefly on the other two points in the letter.

The Sasse litigation still continues and we are still concerned that we should not comment on interpretations placed on the facts of this case.

Sir Henry Fisher's working party made a clear recommendation that immunity should be obtained for the society otherwise self-regulation would not be effective and all the members of the society would suffer. Lloyd's is not seeking to place itself above the law nor to remove its actions from review by the courts. The immunity is only concerned with the relationship between the society and the members of the Lloyd's community and does not affect either the public or the policyholders. That such an immunity should be sought was a

committee decision which has been supported by the overwhelming majority of members.

The committee has agreed that immunity will be sought in the Bill itself that it will be upon a future council conference working, external and internal members to seek immunity subject to the approval of the Privy Council and Parliament. We believe we would be failing in our duty to the membership as a whole if we did less.

I am etc.
A. W. HIGGINS,
Deputy Chairman,
Lloyd's,
1, Old Street,
London, EC3M 7HL.

The quality of sugar

From Miss Isabel Sayers

Sir, I am prompted to write to you following the letter from Mrs Gaddum (February 20) about restricted choice of sugar. I too have been surprised for I too have been surprised not to have seen this aspect of the matter given public consideration. It so happens I have a few shares in the British Sugar Corporation, and wish them well, for it would be splendid for this country to be self-sufficient in an essential commodity, but there seems to be no doubt that cane sugar, demerara and the various browns, are much more satisfactory for flavouring many foods, as well as white lump for

jam making. Indeed, in my youth we used to buy small sacks of broken lump (cane) sugar, for jam making, but I have not heard of this possibility for years. I imagine from the dietary point of view, too there must be much merit in demerara, etc.—no one could call them pure, white and deadly, as one eminent nutritionist said of white sugar! Yours faithfully,
ISABEL SAYERS,
High Meadow,
70 Cym Road,
Dysurb,
Clwyd, LL18 6BD.
February 22.

Nuclear cover

From the Secretary, UK

Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
Sir, Mr Barr's letter (Feb 16) suggests that the Nu installations, Act 1953 are not intended to provide for an ultimate maximum of £30m pension in respect of a clear accident. This is not Section 16(3) of the Act which provides for the satisfaction of claims beyond the £30m amount which is covered international arrangements; such extent and out of it provided by such means as United Kingdom Parliament may determine.

I do not think that it would be difficult in principle to decide where to address claim for compensation under the Act in the event of a clear accident.
P. J. SEARBY,
The Secretary,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
London SW1Y 4QP.

Currency transactions

From Mr N. D. Barnett

Sir, I can assure your correspondents that there are places in London where foreign currency can be obtained on the presentation of a cheque or cash.

I went yesterday to an office of Thomas Cook and asked if they would accept my cheque and their reply was that they accepted it on the same basis as any bank. Up to £50 in foreign currency can be obtained, provided the customer had not used the cheque

card that day for cash. I bought £50 worth on the spot without any request for my name address, etc.
The only query I had raised was why they charge 75p for each currency requested. My request for pesetas and escudos entailed a surcharge of £1.50. Surely this could be described as overcharging for what was really one transaction?

Yours faithfully,
N. D. BARNETT,
16, Pannuill Road,
London SW20.
February 24.

Employing coal miners

From Mr Merlin Minshall

Sir, In its natural concern about how to reemploy redundant coal miners, the Government considered the widespread hardship that is already falling on all those citizens who for centuries all over the country have earned a livelihood by supplying the Coal Industry with much of its ancillary equipment?

To take just one example, the production of pit props, without which no mine can safely operate. The creation of

pit props requires not merely foresters who supply the special wood, but employs many people who work in saw mills and makes considerable use of people in the transport industry who are already having to stand idle as they are no longer required to deliver.

Yours sincerely,
MERLIN MINSHALL,
The Old Bakery,
Stoke Ferry,
Kings Lynn,
Norfolk.

Windmill sizes

From The Chairman of British Wind Energy Assoc

Sir, Mr Stobart (letters, Feb 11) implies that the ENEC Technology Unit report of 1 supports his argument small windmills give less energy than larger ones. In the ENEC report suggested the optimum size would be megawatt or larger, and the developments that I taken place since 1977 r experts would now favour individual machine rating several megawatts, when a num energy cost is required.

Recent work in the UK indicates that large, modern wind turbines can deliver energy at approximately pence/kWh, and the technology is still rapidly evolving with the prospect of continuing cost reductions. Energy from small wind turbines cost approximately double the figure.
PETER MUSGROVE,
Department of Engineering,
University of Reading.



بنك الاتحاد للشركات الأوسط المحدود UNION BANK OF THE MIDDLE EAST LIMITED

Balance Sheet at 31st December 1980

	31st December 1980 Dh000	1979 Dh000		31st December 1980 Dh000	1979 Dh000
Share Capital			Assets		
Authorised—ordinary shares of Dh5 each*	1,000,000	500,000	Cash, balances with banks, money at call and short notice	548,542	320,777
Issued—ordinary shares of Dh5 each fully paid*	210,000	200,000	Deposits with banks	62,468	56,061
Reserves	26,600	16,100	Loans and advances repayable on demand and within one year	1,907,768	1,394,330
Profit and loss account	1,194	560	Accrued interest receivable and other accounts	23,022	17,606
Shareholders' Funds	237,794	216,660		2,541,800	1,788,774
Liabilities			Liabilities of customers for confirmed credits, acceptances and guarantees	1,076,171	966,300
Current and deposit accounts maturing within one year, including reserve for contingencies	2,274,993	1,552,324		3,721,958	2,818,315
Deposit accounts maturing after one year	51,837	45,356			
Accrued interest payable and other accounts	57,163	37,675			
Proposed dividend	24,000	—			
	2,645,787	1,852,015			
Confirmed credits, acceptances and guarantees on behalf of customers	1,076,171	966,300			
	3,721,958	2,818,315			

* 10%—shares of Dh100 each, see Share Capital below

U.S.\$1.00=U.A.E. Dh3.67 approximately

Principal Activity:
The Bank carries on the business of international merchant banking, together with full retail banking facilities to individuals, firms, corporations and government departments. In particular, special emphasis is given to short and medium term finance, promotion of import and export trade to and from the United Arab Emirates, corporate finance services, foreign exchange and money market transactions, short and medium term lending in local and major world currencies, investment banking, and private placements.

Results for the Year:
For the Bank, 1980 was a successful year. Revenues from trade finance increased significantly due to active marketing of the Bank's services. The overseas development of the Bank has been rewarded as our branches have continued to

contribute to our profits since the commencement of their operations.

The Bank has declared a profit for the year of Dh45,134,000 (U.S.\$12,298,000).

Share Capital:

The Directors have proposed that the authorised share capital of the Bank be increased to Dh1,000,000,000 and that each existing share of Dh100 be replaced by 20 shares of Dh5 each.

A bonus issue of shares has been proposed by the Directors on a 1 for 20 basis by the appropriation of Dh10 million from general reserve, giving a paid up capital of Dh210 million (U.S.\$57 million), maintaining the Bank's position as one of the largest share capitalised Banks in the United Arab Emirates.

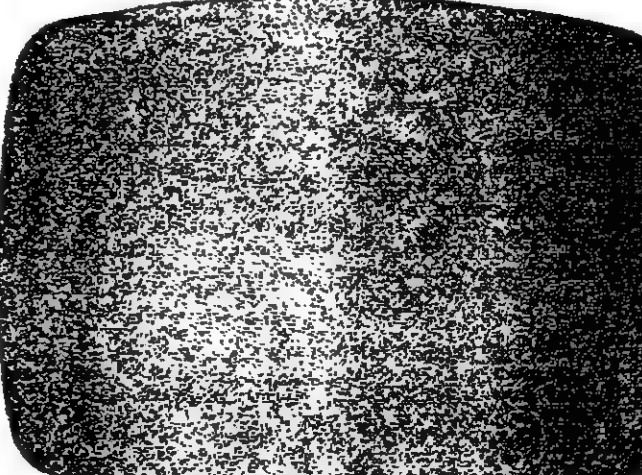
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Telephone: 281181. Telex: 46425 UNIDB EM (General), 46426 UNIFX EM (Dealers).
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مركز الأصيل

[illegible]

Stock markets

Unilever figures and Budget fears hit equities

With only six working days left before the Budget, most investment sections were showing signs of anxiety yesterday over the Chancellor's expected proposals.

Leading industrials again bore the brunt of selling pressure with prices drifting steadily throughout the day. Sentiment was given an additional knock by full-year figures from Unilever, and although profits were in line with most expectations, the reduced dividend came as a shock—especially when it was the result of currency translations.

Jobbers were able to stem the expected flow of selling orders by lopping 10p from the price but could only watch as investors switched into the NV shares. The price eventually closed 3p lower at 47.5p.

Elsewhere, dealers were expressing concern over a possible 2 per cent cut in MLE next week. But several cheap buyers saw equities recover after hours despite the recent weakness of the pound and a possible confrontation looming with the water workers. The FT Index, which was down 7.2 at 1 pm, recovered slightly to close 5.2 lower at 496.2.

Gilt appeared dismayed by reports that the Government had failed in its attempt to cut public sector spending. The weak pound also did little for confidence and the latest reduction in United States prime rates from 12 to 11 per cent by Citicorp and First National of Chicago did little to remedy the matter.

Nervous offerings saw falls of between 1/2 and 1 in loans while at the share end, prices ranged from 1/2 to 1 1/2.

Applications for new tax, which open today, are expected to be allocated in full.

Leading industrials spent

another uninspiring session with prices usually easier when changed. ICL, down 2p at 24.8p, and Imperial Group, unchanged at 74p, were both in ex div form and not, as stated yesterday, as not paying their respective dividends.

Elsewhere, Becton Dickinson fell 1p to 161p, Hawker Siddeley 2p to 288p, Tube Investments 6p to 144p.

Flagging engineering giant GKN will get a boost today with brokers Savory Miln rating the shares a buy for recovery and looking for profits in the second half. The brokers expect a 15m loss for last year and a break-even for the current first half. The share closed unchanged at 144p.

190p, Lucas Industries 2p to 190p and Fisons 2p to 138p. However, there were several bright spots, including Glaxo 2p better at 250p, Courtaulds up 1p to 62p and Dunlop closing firm at 63p.

Shares of John Michael (Savile Row) were suspended at 14p pending a statement expected no later than Monday, March 10. The chairman, Mr. John Michael, was unable to comment.

Market newcomer Espley Tyas encountered profit-taking, slipping 6p to 90p, while British Aerospace recovered a 2p fall to close unchanged at 174p.

On the bid front, shares of Davy Corp tumbled 14p to 143p on news that the bid from Enserch had been referred to the Monopolies Commission. Meanwhile, British Sugar, still awaiting the verdict of a report from the Monopolies Commission resulting from the bid by S. & W. Beristford, slipped 5p to 172p, while the latter eased 2p to 172p.

Shares of Gaskell Broadloom were another weak market, slipping 7p to 59p after Rowe & Pitman ceased buying on behalf of one of its clients.

Favourable comment lifted Howard Tenens 2p to 60p, Hanson Trust 1p to 226p and Allied Colloids 3p to 123p, but adverse comment on a possible bid approach left Aston Reed 5p lower at 90p.

Speculative attention lifted Olives Paper Mills 4p to 29p, Plastic Construction 3p to 30p, Pethow Holdings 4p to 44p, Peel Mills 7p to 83p, North British Steel 3p to 35p, Gordon Goch 10p to 150p, Frieland Dogcart 6p to 88p and Whatman Revere

5p to 78p. Buying in a thin market lifted Flight Refuelling 20p to 308p.

However, nervous selling clipped 12p from Boosey & Hawkes at 139p with a loss of 6p to 80p in Textured Jersey.

Worries that the expected great as originally forecast had building shares on the retreat. BCI softened 10p to 378p, Redland 1p to 167p and Barratt Developments 7p to 194p. Wm Press held steady at 33p on recent plans for company reorganization and Costain was firm at 216p. Speculative buying was good for a 4p rise in Montague L. Meyer at 80p, while buyers picked up over 100,000 shares in Hargreaves, also 4p stronger at 46p.

Among companies reporting, satisfactory nine-month figures helped AAR to 3p rise at 190p with Diploma 2p higher at 168p after a better than expected performance. But British Vita slipped 2p to 138p.

In banks figures from Grindlays Holdings were a shade below expectations and the shares responded 2p lower at 176p before recovering to close unchanged at 178p.

National Westminster on 365p and Lloyds on 318p, both ex

div, closed unchanged as was Barclays, reporting later in the week on 483p. But Midland shed 3p to 330p. In financials figures from Provident Financial left the price 3p better at 141p.

Electricals opened lower but eventually recovered slightly on cheap buying to close above the worst. GEC fell 3p to 645p, Racal 7p at 361p, Plessey 6p at 313p, Ferranti 10p at 545p and Thorn EMI 6p at 308p.

Breweries remained nervous over the Budget, with Bass regaining 3p to 210p, Allied 1p to 66p.

Last week the textile sector came in for some long-awaited attention amid noises that the worst was over. But yesterday it was a time to take profits as a line of over 300,000 Dawson International went through the market at 164p. The shares eventually closed 3p lower at 165p.

Equity turnover for March 2 was £124.45m (bargains 21.126). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Plessey, Davy Corporation, Thorn EMI, Unilever, Racal, Grand Met, Tilling, Ferranti, Burton, Bonheur, Jardine Matheson and Diploma.

Traditional options: Dealers reported moderate activity. Calls were made in First National Finance, Westminster Properties, Sangers, Henry Wigfall, Town and City and British Aerospace. Puts were arranged in Lucas and Grootvriel and doubles completed in Fisons, British Aerospace and Grindlays.

Traders' options: A total of 388 contracts were recorded. Consolidated Gold attracted 24, BP 28, Commercial Union 14 and ICI 62.

British Vita down 20 pc, but payout maintained

By Catherine Gunn
British Vita, the Manchester-based foam manufacturer headed by Mr. Forney Parker, announced a 20 per cent drop in its 1980 pre-tax profits to £7.1m yesterday. The shares fell 2p to 138p.

The final dividend has been maintained at 3.7p gross on the enlarged, post-rights issue capital, giving a total gross payment of 7.43p for the year to December 31.

The profits decline came from the British and European operations, which made just over £2.5m against £4.6m the previous year. International operations, which are largely foam manufacturing, increased their contribution by £200,000 to £4.6m after the stronger pound "cost" the group about £200,000 of those higher profits on translating to sterling. The Far East, Australasia, Canada and the Caribbean put up the best performance in 1980.

Group interest costs rose by 86 per cent to £3m, and related largely to the British and European activities. In the final quarter, the rights issue cash earned the group a net interest benefit of £200,000. Mr. William

Holt, the company secretary, said yesterday: "British Vita wants to be cash to add to its present 'related fields' and would like to reinforce its position in Europe. Mr. Holt said the group has its eye on the U.S. market."

A 21 per cent rise in turnover to £88.7m reflects the first full year of the Bradford acquisition and 11 months of Vita bought in February 1980. Processing is now a significant part of the group's European and British activities, after decision two years ago to develop the business here "export" the technology overseas operations. In making its plans for 1981, the group is assuming no significant improvement in United Kingdom trading conditions next year.

Mr. Forney Parker, chairman of British Vita.

Receivers called in for most of Brocks Group

By Margaret Pagano
Receivers were appointed yesterday to most of the companies in the loss-making Brocks Group after the failure to sell and worth about £3m.

Mr. Richard Agutter, joint receiver with Mr. Guy Parsons, both partners in the firm of accountants Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, said the crucial factor in negotiations had been the failure to sell surplus land. A tentative offer had been made for the land at Brocks's Poole factory but was withdrawn. This would probably have saved off the appointment of receivers

and given the group sufficient cash to pay off its overdrafts and loans.

Brocks's borrowings of about £3.5m came up for renewal recently. The company asked the Midland Bank to call in the receivers.

On Monday Mr. Colin Banks, the chairman, called for a suspension of the shares at 16p pending an announcement.

Pelco, which has not been placed under receivership, is the sole distributor of Rockwell products in the United Kingdom and is trading satisfactorily.

Downturn at Provider Financial

By Our Financial Staff
Provider Financial Group, the Bradford-based fit house, saw profits slip in year to December 31 after decline in the second half.

Pre-tax profits dropped to £8.7m from £9.5m in the year to December 31, after a decline of £283.3m, as £250m of revenue was lost.

The final dividend has been lifted to 6.47p gross, a total of 10p gross compared with 9.21p. The increase, ever, is not as large as in previous years.

Group's net revenue rose to £46.3m against £3m and amounts due from customers rose to £230.8m from £199m. This leaves attributable profits of £5.1m compared with £1.1m last time. Interest on total borrowings of £1.1m started last time, an increase of £7.2m. The shares added to 141p on the news.

The first six months share profits up by 7 per cent to £2.85m helped by a buoyant market. But the group's performance in the first half was a fall in demand in second quarter which continued through the year. Demand by 16 per cent in the first but fell back to 10 per cent in the last six months of the year.

Mr. Peter Rowe, the financial director, said that the set half traditionally shows greater profits, but profits fell by 14 per cent against the same period time.

County Bank, the who owned merchant banking subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, has reported lower profits for 1980. It made £6.87m before tax compared with an adjusted figure of £7.31m. This is contrary to recent trends in profits of merchant banks which have been on the whole rising steadily.

The bank's advances rose from £297m to £34m while gross assets have gone from £662m to £792m. County Bank is paying a dividend of £580,000.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 14%
Barclays 14%
BCCI 14%
Consolidated Crds 14%
C. Hoare & Co 14%
Lloyds Bank 14%
Midland Bank 14%
Nat Westminster 14%
TSB 14%
Williams and Glyn's 14%

* New deposits on sums of £10,000 or more, 12% p.a. over £50,000 12 1/2% p.a. over £100,000 13% p.a.

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1980 H1
High Low Company Price Chgs Divs Yld % P E

75 39 Airsprung Group 63 - 1.7 10.6 3.7
44 21 Armitage & Rhodes 44 +1 1.4 3.2 15.1
192 92 Bardon Hill 190 +1 9.7 5.1 7.1
98 85 Debenhams Services 92.2d - 5.5 6.0 4.6
126 88 Frank Horell 105 - 6.4 6.0 3.4
110 40 Frederick Parker 40 -10 1.7 2.5 17.4
110 74 George Blair 74 -1 3.1 4.2 4.1
124 103 Jackson Group 109 - 7.9 6.6 9.8
324 244 Robert Jenkins 320 - 31.3 9.5 3.8
55 30 Scruttons 'A' 52 - 5.3 10.2 3.8
224 215 Torday Limited 216 - 15.1 7.0 2.7
23 10 Twinklford 11 - 1.1 1.1 1.1
90 69 Twinklford 15% YLS 72 +1 15.0 20.8 -
56 35 Unilock Holdings 42 - 3.0 7.1 6.5
103 81 Walter Alexander 102 -1 5.7 5.6 5.6
263 181 W. S. Yeates 260 - 12.1 4.7 4.2

Briefly

Grand Metropolitan: Group is considering applying for a New York Stock Exchange quotation, following plans to acquire the United States investment after the Lazard acquisition. Grand Met already has a quote on the Paris Bourse.

Centrawest: Proposed offer by Centrawest of 80p nominal of 11 per cent preference shares of £1 plus 80p cash to acquire Centrawest ordinary shares. CT currently owns 531,000 Centrawest Ltd. ordinary shares (25.6 per cent). Holders of 370,000 shares (21 per cent) have irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer.

Offer values: CWL at 132p against 115p at February 22. Andrieu Mercantile Investment Trust: Dividend for year to January 31, 3.5p gross (3.28p). Net revenue £1.8m (£1.83m) after tax, 5.5p (5.1p). Dividend 2.8p (2.75p). Dividend per share charges at redemption, 7.3p (6.2p), at market value 7.7p (6.6p). Consideration to include assets of dividend from Andrieu.

Eva Industries: Shareholders have been advised to reject £3.7m token offer made by Anglo Indonesian Corporation. Mr. Peter Rowe, chairman, has said that net tangible assets last year were 135p a share and therefore the 40p a share offer represents a 70 per cent discount.

Winston Estates: Turnover for 1980, £1.47m (£787,000). Pre-tax profit £333,000 (£408,000). Eps 10.1p (4.42p). Dividend, 2.75p gross (2.5p).

Frederick Parker Group: Our report yesterday should have been headlined: "Frederick Parker Group in red" reflecting the group's £692,000 loss last year. Frederick Parker are not involved in a takeover bid.

Stroud Riley, Drummond: Mr. Stefan Simmonds, the chief executive, has taken up his option to acquire an additional holding of 5.1 per cent of the company to 35.9 per cent. Mr. Simmonds is now obliged to make an offer at 42p a share to purchase the remaining ordinary shares in the group.

New Court Natural Resources has offered to acquire certain producing oil and gas properties located in West Texas for a total of \$4.5m (£2m). Based on a reserve evaluation carried out by independent petroleum engineers, the proved reserves attributable to NCNR are about 350,000 barrels of oil.

Thames Investment and Securities: First Phase of industrial warehousing development at Irlam Lane, comprising 31,000 sq ft has been leased to Coal Industry Nominees for just under £750,000. When let Thames will retain 20 per cent of the income free of liability.

Woodhouse and Risdon (Bldgs): Turnover for year to December 31, £1.7m (£1.4m). Pre-tax profit £384,000 (£383,000) after tax, Eps 4.8p (3.5p). Dividend 2.48p (2.48p) gross.

Midland Bank Industrial Finance and Mortgage Investments, an associate, have £1.25m into Spafax Holdings of Bath, which sells engineering components to garages, fleet owners and factories. The injection means that Spafax will not have to consider a stock exchange listing for some years.

Atlantic Resources: Institutions in London and Dublin are to subscribe for shares in Atlantic, a new Irish company headed by Mr. Tony O'Reilly which is to acquire an interest in drilling for oil off the West Coast of Ireland.

Routon Hotels: Globe Investment Trust sold 200,000 shares on February 20 leaving holding nil. Graham House Estate with subsidiary, Security, which is interested in 361,500 shares (10.069 per cent).

UK RESERVES
Figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves (issued by the Treasury):

End of period 3m 6m Change in month %

1980
Feb 29 333 10,325 +229
March 29 333 12,402 +2,077
April 29 333 12,820 +418
May 29 333 12,961 +141
June 29 333 12,961 +141
July 29 333 12,961 +141
Aug 29 333 12,961 +141
Sept 29 333 12,961 +141
Oct 29 333 12,961 +141
Nov 29 333 12,961 +141
Dec 29 333 12,961 +141

By Our Financial Staff
Whitcroft, the Manchester textiles, building supplies and engineering group, is selling the business and certain assets of the group to a consortium of Ryder & Sons, a machine tool subsidiary to Sticksound, an offshoot of Gulf and Western Industries.

Sticksound is also leasing part of Ryder's premises in Bolton, Lancashire, at a commercial rent. The price of the

Energy exploration fund set for debut

By Catherine Gunn
TR Energy, a £20m energy fund, starts trading in London with a full Stock Exchange quotation on March 12. The fund has been put together by the Touche, Remnant fund management group to invest in energy exploration and development here and in the United States, through share stakes and leasing agreements.

The Touche, Remnant investment trusts put up half of the capital last year through a mixture of cash, loans now exchanged for shares, and direct transfers of stocks. Now £10m is being raised through an offer for sale conducted by Kleinwort, Benson.

Subscriptions for 10m shares are invited at £1 per 25p share. Lord Remnant, chairman of the trust, said yesterday that half of the new shares were firmly placed with "about two dozen institutions". Of the rest, 3.5m had been applied for by the institutions, but he said he also wanted to encourage the

small investor, and the lowest application had been set at 200 shares. The lists close next Monday.

Lord Remnant stressed yesterday that the fund was a high investment, but claimed that it afforded more protection to investors than other energy funds traded here. No dividends were likely to be paid for two years, he said.

The aim is to invest two-thirds of the fund in the United States. There is no restriction on the proportion of unlisted investments, but no more than 20 per cent of the fund will go into pure drilling ventures.

Under the option agreement, the fund will invest two-thirds of the fund in the United States. There is no restriction on the proportion of unlisted investments, but no more than 20 per cent of the fund will go into pure drilling ventures.

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US deal for Burnett & Hallamshire

By Rosemary Unsworth
Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, the opencast mining and fuel distribution group, has used some of the proceeds of its £11m rights issue last year to buy a United States coal site for \$10m (about £4.5m).

The group, which last week acquired in next year's results, is a consortium to explore for coal in the Philippines, has exercised an option it held for nine months for the mining rights to a 3,800-acre site in Pennsylvania.

According to research by National Coal Board geologists the area could yield 15 million tons of coal from opencast mining and five million tons from underground mining. Burnett has paid the equivalent of about 5 pence a ton. The price of coal is around \$35 a ton, which the group considers a depressed level.

The site has an estimated life of 15 years and Burnett expects to invest a maximum of \$50m there with a contribution expected in next year's results.

The acquisition is expected to increase the group's output from 1.5m tons to 2m within two years, using a labour force of 50.

Under the option agreement, Burnett's US subsidiary, NSM Coal, has paid a deposit of \$300,000 and a further \$2.45m on the exercise of the option with the balance to be paid in seven annual instalments. Interest on the outstanding consideration will be at 7 per cent throughout the payment period.

The vendor is Mrs. Zella Gahagan, a 75-year-old widow who inherited the site from her husband. He had closed the site in the 1950s after a dispute with the miners. The proceeds will be used to build a Mormon school.

The directors of Thorn Electrical Industries of Australia and of EMI (Australia) have unanimously agreed to a merger.

Thorn Australia is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Thorn EMI group, which, as a result of the 1979 merger in the United Kingdom between Thorn and EMI, is entitled to 8.46m stock units or 61.8 per cent of EMI Australia's issued capital.

The offer will be £52.07 cash for every such EMI component distribution company, which made half of group profits in 1979-80, still managed to maintain half-year profits. In the face of stock dumping and falling prices unit volume increased substantially on slightly higher gross margins and profits were unchanged after increased overheads.

Lower group profits, on turnover up from £24m to £25m in the half year to December 31, were attributed to a downturn in the manufacturing and service operations although the processor Henry Whitcomb did well. The 80 per cent stake in Industrial Scaffolding has been sold at a book profit and the proceeds, together with loan repayments, ran into seven figures.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.43p gross.

In a separate announcement, publishers William Collins & Sons (Holdings) disclosed that Pergamon Press had topped up its holding from 6.86 per cent to 7.175 per cent. Pergamon began buying Collins shares last October under one of two nominee companies. There has been no contact between Mr. Maxwell and Collins, where directors and family trusts are believed to hold almost 50 per cent.

Mr. Maxwell is awaiting approval of EPC shareholders for Pergamon to inject £10m into the former British Printing Corporation and for Mr. Maxwell to become its deputy chairman and chief executive. No date has yet been made.

Marshall's Halifax: Norwich Union Life Assurance Society and Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society hold 706,862 shares (3.23 per cent).

North Kalgurli Mines has purchased a 50 per cent interest in Tetra Exploration Drilling Co, a subsidiary of UNC Resources of the United States, for \$55m (£26m).

Tetra has a 25.5 per cent interest in the Honeycomb uranium project in South Australia as well as joint venture participation in other uranium prospects in Australia.

Swiss Bank Corporation recorded net profits of 286.6m francs (£66.6m) in 1980, up 11.1 per cent from 1979. The balance sheet total increased by 7.1 per cent to 74,000m francs.

Japan International Bank, the London-based consortium bank owned by several Japanese banks and financial institutions, has reported pre-tax profits of £3.84m for 1980, up from £3.14m in 1979. Total assets grew from £388m to £412m.

Bambers Stores is buying Bramhams of Weymouth, Dorset, as "Tuttles". Bambers will take possession in mid-April.

Goodyear sales prospects

Goodyear Tire and Rubber expects its European sales in 1981 to climb from £1,400m to £1,600m (£730

Property

New homes built in an older style

Combining modern standards of comfort and interior design with the picturesque of an earlier style is not the easiest exercise. Usually the difficulties are met by up-dating an old house with a greater or lesser degree of rebuilding. A more unusual method is to build a new house as closely as possible to an earlier style, avoiding if possible the more obvious embellishments which gave rise to the style known as "stockbroker tudor" in the inter-war years.

An example of this is provided by Farthingale House, at Funtington, near Chichester, West Sussex, which was carefully designed and built some six years ago in brick and flint as a replica

of an eighteenth century village house, using selected materials in an intentionally "old" style. It has a large sitting/dining room, some 32ft long with a fine inglenook fireplace and iron canopy, study, combined kitchen and breakfast room, four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Within the roof is a large galleried music room, also 32ft long, with exposed roof timbers. There is a paved courtyard and medium-sized garden. Offers, about £115,000 are being asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, of Chichester.

A genuine eighteenth century house, almost a prototype for Farthingale House, is Farthingale Manor, at Funtington, near Chichester, also constructed in brick and flint and with a tiled roof. Here, main accommodation includes two reception rooms, a large conservatory, seven bedrooms and two bathrooms.

In addition, on the ground floor there is a self-contained apartment—with access from the house and by its own front door—which consists of a bed-sitting room and its own kitchen and bathroom. There are a partly walled garden and orchard and pasture land which extends in all to just under 1½ acres. A price of about £200,000 is being asked



Farthingale House, at Funtington, near Chichester, Sussex, built only six years ago in an eighteenth century style.

through Churchman Burt and Son, of Steyning, Sussex.

An interesting prospect for a complete conversion, subject to planning permission, is Loddington Oast, at Linton, near Maidstone, Kent. It is built of ragstone, with a partly boarded front and a tiled roof. The ground floor measures some 52ft by 23ft, with a similar area above. At one end of the building is a single kiln of 20ft diameter and

attached at the rear are two further kilns. Land with the buildings extends to about three-quarters of an acre. Offers of about £45,000 are being asked through Finn and Sons, of Sandwich.

No less than three Cotswold cottages, suitable for improvement and modernization, are to come up for auction later this month through the Stow on the Wold office of Bernard Thorpe

and Partners. One is at Kingham and is a three-storey detached building with a sitting room and three bedrooms, which is expected to make over £25,000. Another is at Condover and is a detached double-fronted cottage with "two up and two down" accommodation, plus a large outbuilding to one side and about 2½ acres of pastureland, which might make about £30,000. The third is a stone Victorian semi-detached four-roomed cottage, in Kingham, expected to realize about £15,000.

A good example of an old school, building converted to residential use is provided by The Old School House, at Titchborne, near Alresford, in Hampshire. Believed to have been built about 1842, it is constructed of brick and flint, with a partly slate and partly tiled roof, and still retains the old school bell and door.

There are two main reception rooms, a conservatory and four bedrooms. Outbuildings include a double garage and a workshop and the whole extends to just under 1½ acres. The price is over £70,000 and the agents are Pearsons, of Alresford.

Another interesting old school conversion is The Bell House, at Boughton Malherbe, Kent.

This is thought to have been built about 1847 and has not only retained its school bell, but also the schoolroom. The room provides a living area measuring some 36ft 6in by 15ft 6in, with a height of about 26ft to the apex of the roof, and has arched windows. Besides this, there are a combined kitchen and breakfast room, five bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is about one-third of an acre of garden and the price is about £110,000. The agents are Strutt and Parker, of Canterbury.

In contrast is Sparrows End, at Newport, near Saffron Walden, Essex, a house built some 15 years ago in the neo-Georgian style, with a pillared entrance porch and a round central window above it. It has two unusually large reception rooms, the drawing room being nearly 30ft long and the dining room almost as large. On the first floor are a main bedroom and bathroom suite, three further bedrooms and another bathroom, plus a further three bedrooms on the second floor.

There are landscaped gardens and the whole property, mainly arable and pasture land, runs to just under 40 acres, including meadows with a river frontage. Outbuildings are extensive. Offers of about £225,000 are

being asked through Swor

of Saffron Walden. With all the spaciousness houses built earlier this century are in Down End, at Chilbolton, Andover, Hampshire, built 1906 of brick and clay tile structure.

Here, there are a large reception hall, two main reception rooms, study, large kitchen, a separate breakfast room, a main bedroom, dressing, five bedrooms and a shower room in about 2½ acres the price about £150,000, through Iberts.

More modern is Harmony Silverdale Avenue, Watford, Thames, Surrey, built about years ago on the Ashley private estate. A feature is roof of hand-made tiles with stone chimney. The accommodation includes three reception rooms, five bedrooms and bathrooms.

There are a double garage, a store shed. Gardens are landscaped and tend to about two thirds of an acre, with many mature shrubs and trees. About £180,000 being asked and the agents the Ascot office of Knight Fr and Rutley.

Gerald



Residential property



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7 bedroomed house, with swimming pool and tennis court. Mill house. 5 cottages. Modern and traditional buildings with 780 tonnes grain storage and modern beef fattening yards. 746 Acres.
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Very fine period country house.
2 reception, study, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (one ensuite). Full oil-fired central heating. Outbuildings. 2 garages. Garden, spinney and paddock (part left). Approx. 4 Acres.
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WITH RIVER FRONTAGE
Importance with outstanding views, including the river, the town of Abingdon and the surrounding countryside. The house is a fine example of a 17th century mansion, with a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
For Sale by Auction on 11th April 1981 at 11.00 am.
Auctioneers: Breckon & Breckon, 5 King Edward Street, Oxford, Tel. (0865) 44735.

DEANFORD HALL, Framlingham and surrounding area, Suffolk.
A superb detached house, built in 17th century, with a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
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HAMBLEDON—SURREY
XVIII CENTURY HOUSE WITH FLAT AND COTTAGE
GROUNDS OF 12.33 ACRES
In the village centre, charming listed house, carefully restored with light oak woodwork, large elegant reception rooms, 12 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
For Sale by Auction on 11th April 1981 at 11.00 am.
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BATH: THE ROYAL CRESCENT
Exceptional Grade 1 Listed Georgian town house by John Wood, fully restored, featuring a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
For Sale by Auction on 11th April 1981 at 11.00 am.
Auctioneers: Breckon & Breckon, 5 King Edward Street, Oxford, Tel. (0865) 44735.

CLANDON—W. BATH
House, Downstairs, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
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CORNWALL
A superb detached house, built in 17th century, with a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
For Sale by Auction on 11th April 1981 at 11.00 am.
Auctioneers: Breckon & Breckon, 5 King Edward Street, Oxford, Tel. (0865) 44735.

ESSEX—SUFFOLK
A superb detached house, built in 17th century, with a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
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AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
Modern detached Cotswold stone house in unique outbuilding, low location. 2 double beds, 1 shower in suite, 1 single, bathroom, large fitted kitchen, well equipped, utility, cloakroom, dining room, large lounge with french windows to large garden adjoining farm house, 2 double beds, 2 bathrooms, integral double garage with automatic door. 7.5 Acres.
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Prestigious location, in quiet, secluded road, architecturally designed, detached house: 3 bedrooms, through living room, kitchen, bathroom, sep. w.c., cloakroom, Gas C.H. Attractive garden & garage. £55,000 negotiable.
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A substantial period farm, built in a rural position with a cottage annex and about 2½ acres, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
For Sale by Auction on 11th April 1981 at 11.00 am.
Auctioneers: Breckon & Breckon, 5 King Edward Street, Oxford, Tel. (0865) 44735.

GLYNDORNE
A superb detached house, built in 17th century, with a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
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Attractive newly developed 2 bedroom flat, fitted kitchen, bath, shower, central heating, gas C.H., large garden, 1/2 acre, sitting room, w.c., including fitted carpets throughout.
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Superb detached house, built in 17th century, with a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
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SUFFOLK COAST
Southwold 1 mile, situated in the village, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
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CADESDEN ROW
A superb detached house, built in 17th century, with a large hall, 10 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen, a study, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiard room, a library, a music room, a games room, a sunroom, a terrace, a garden, a paddock, and a large outbuilding. The house is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.
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